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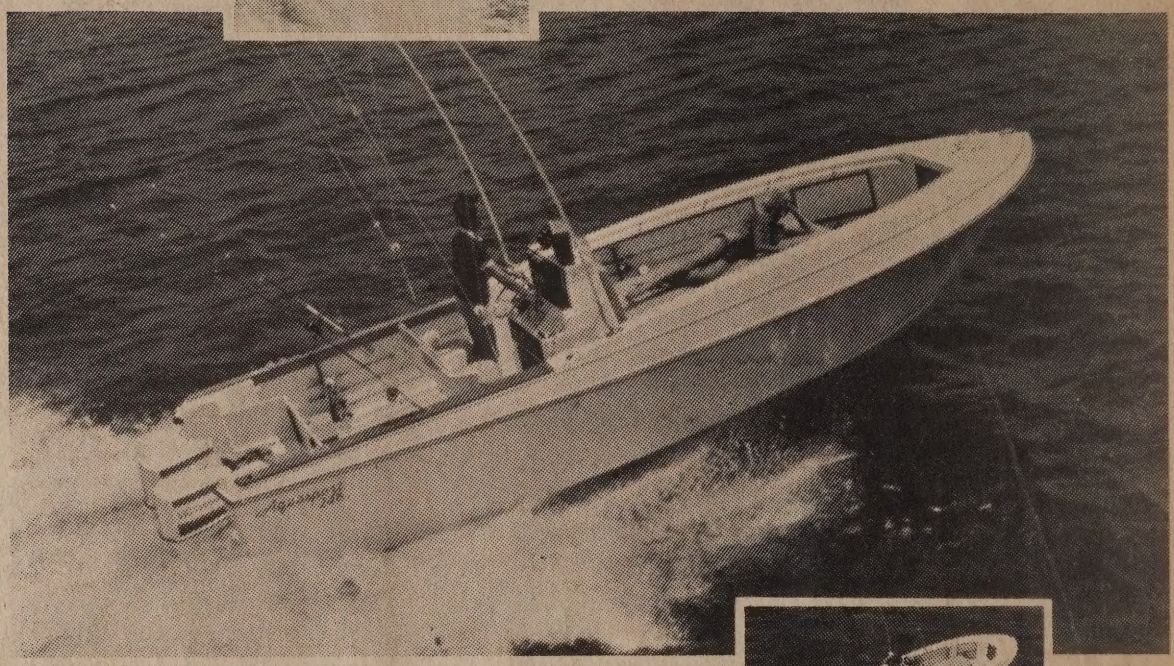

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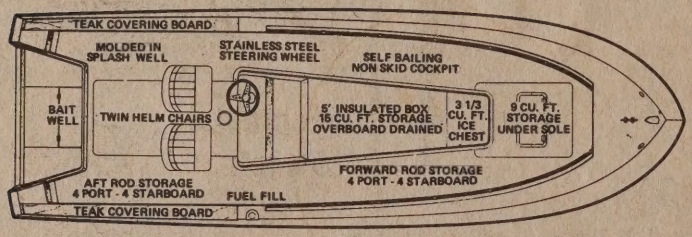
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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 13, NO. 7 FEBRUARY 16, 1978

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COMING NEXT WEEK:

How-To Use A Sextant

About the Cover—

Just thought we'd remind you that although it's cold on Long Island, some of our readers have had the chance to travel to ports of call such as Walker's Cay to indulge in palm trees and fishing. Lucky stiffs!

Richard Reina — PUBLISHER
Dr. Wm. A. Muller — MANAGING EDITOR
Scott Simons — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Al Ristori — CONSERVATION EDITOR
Ken Walsh — NATIONAL ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
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From the Editor's Head

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Why Buy Manufacturer's Products?

These special issues have focussed upon fishing tackle, electronics, and accessory equipment which can either be made or purchased and are intended to make our fishing more enjoyable and successful.

Some of the articles have described how to make something because we like to save a few bucks now and then, and because we enjoy winter projects related to our in-season fishing. These projects "keep us out of trouble," as the saying goes.

However, it remains impractical for most of us to make all but a few items. Imagine the chore of making your own depth recorder, for example. Now maybe some of you are skilled enough to succeed at this task, but I know that when it comes to electronics I'm all thumbs. However, I can make a mean rod; but here, too, all but a few of my rods have either been manufactured by a major company or crafted especially for me by a local tackle shop.

Time as well as skill becomes an important factor. I usually outline an ambitious series of winter projects early in December, but by the time spring rolls around only a few have been completed. Why? Well, the holidays consume lots of time what with shopping and visiting; work always seems to take more time than I figured; there are also a few unexpected tasks that surface here and there, and simple fatigue often prevents me from dislodging myself from the couch on many evenings.

Thus, it becomes inevitable that the bulk of our tackle needs will be purchased from manufacturers. The time was, not too long ago, when there was little in the way of supplies, tackle, and equipment available from major companies. There were a few rods, reels, and hooks, but almost everything else had to be improvised. Model T Fords served as beach buggies; most large lures were made by hand, and I still remember watching fishermen adding tar to natural fiber line for use on large bottom species.

How about boats? Do you remember the numbers of hours that had to be invested each year to prepare a wood boat for use? I do! Scraping, sanding, caulking, painting—over and over and over! Isn't Fiberglas a joy! And who would prefer an old-fashioned heavy conventional reel to modern spin casting reels on a cold windy night in the surf. Modern conventionals are lighter and feature anti-backlash features that make their use a pleasure, too. Fiberglas rods can take punishment from fish and fishermen that could have only been dreamed about several decades ago when split bamboo was the standard.

Yeah—we've come a long way, baby! It has been technology that has brought us here and the investment of countless tackle entrepreneurs in the future. In today's world, manufacturers operate large research and development divisions that constantly search for ways to make their products better and to discover new products that will be the standard of excellence for tomorrow.

It seems to us that the list of examples can stretch out on and on. The first outboard motor that my Dad bought was a 7½ h.p. Scott-Atwater that was as big and heavy as today's 25 horsepower power plants! And are today's engines more dependable? You bet they are, and they manage better fuel economy, too!

Where do we go from here? I don't know, but if the future holds out hope for improvements at the same rate as we have seen for the past twenty years, the possibilities boggle the mind! Surely new compounds will be synthesized that will make our tackle even easier to care for and put more fun into each fish that we catch. Then, too, I'm sure that electronic improvements will continue to throttle along towards a futuristic conclusion. I wonder if by the 1980s we'll have a television-type instrument that will allow us to scan the waters in order to find and then fish for, specific species of specific sizes?

In the end, this fantasized machine may be inexpensive enough so as to be within the reach of the average pocketbook. We can be confident that the keen competition between tackle and equipment manufacturers will continue to promote the development of new and better products and if one or two companies should fall by the wayside and the quality of the product dim by mparison to past models, rest assured that there will be another pro iting in the wings to fill the void.

And remember this: we are at the dawn of the saltwater fishing era. water is way ahead of us in tradition and sophistication as a recreational —but we are closing the gap very rapidly. Yes, we can buy the things need to fish, in comfort and enjoyment, with piece of mind, knowing care for that equipment, it will probably outlive us!

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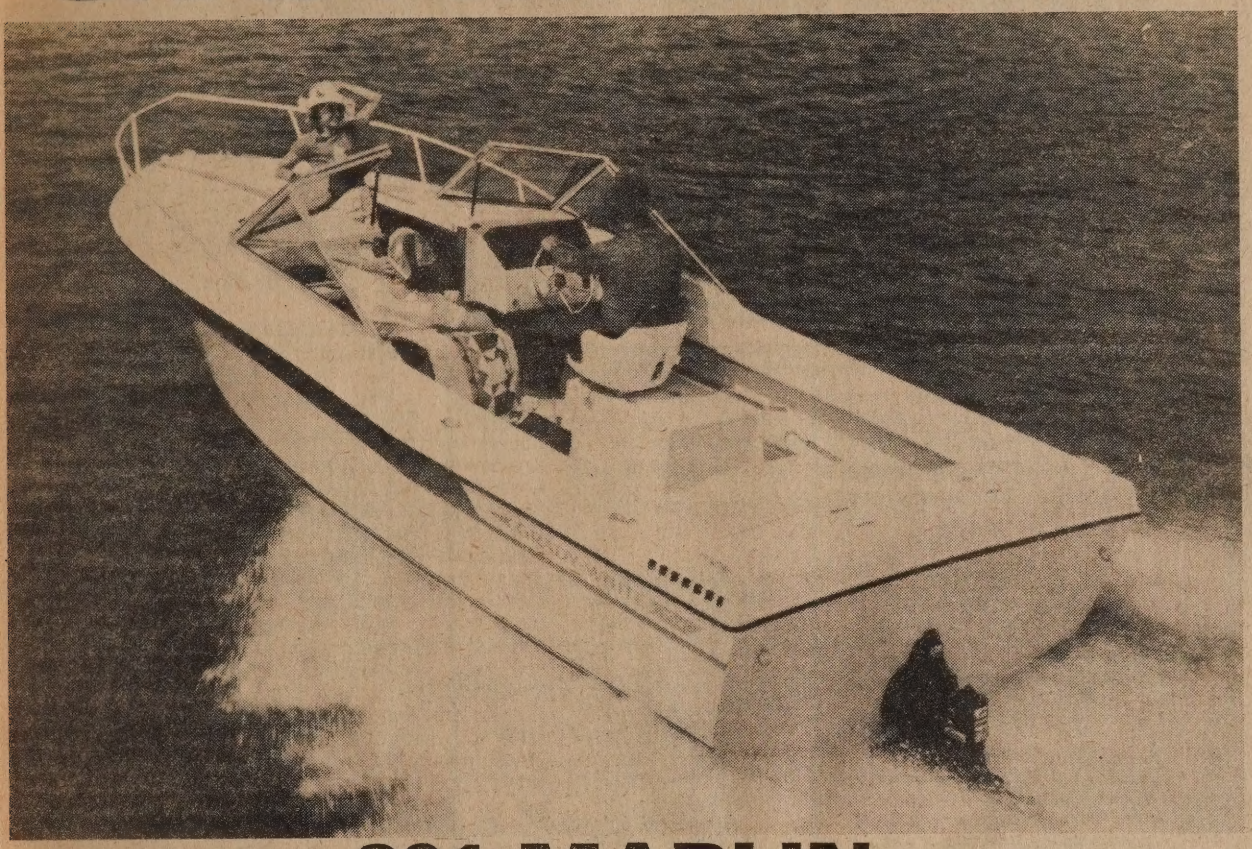

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"KEVLAR 49" by *DuPont* is lighter than fiberglass and is *stronger than steel*, pound for pound. "KEVLAR 49" provides far greater impact resistance than fiberglass for safety and peace of mind. It also dampens vibrations and wave impact noise, for a quiet ride!

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The Kevlar 49 Hydra-Sport 21 is a MUST SEE at the Long Island Boat Show!

Pass It On...

The Long Island Fisherman congratulates Alfred V. Gibbs of The Bronx for his world record catch of a 6 lb. 11 oz. sea bass. On December 3, 1977, Mr. Gibbs was officially notified by the IGFA that he holds the world's record for sea bass in the men's 30 lb. line class. The fish was taken aboard the "Marlin" out of Montauk.

Congratulations to the fisherman and Captain Rade.

L.I. STATE PARK COMMISSION REGULATIONS FOR JONES BEACH PARKING FIELD SIX

We recently spoke with Mr. Sheridan, General Manager for Parks and Recreation, Long Island State Park Commission about recent publicity concerning surf fishing access at Jones Beach Field 6. In order to recognize the rights of surf fishermen and to protect other users of the beach the following regulations will be promulgated.

Surf fishing will be allowed at parking field 6 for those holding the appropriate permit (obtainable at any park office free) before and after the bathing season. Beginning on the Monday before Memorial Day (this year, May 23) and lasting through Labor Day, no surf fishing will be permitted in an area of field 6 that is roughly defined as the width of the parking lot. This will apply to both day and night fishing during the period. Fishing will be permitted to the east and west of the restricted zone.

The new regulation effectively eliminates a short stretch of beach during the swimming season, but continues access to field 6 fishing possibilities. The Long Island Fisherman and its readers appreciate Mr. Sheridan's quick and thoughtful action on what had very quickly become a "hot" and important issue for fishermen.

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES SYMPOSIUM

Sharks, whales, clams, beaches, bluefish, coral reefs, and seals will be among the sea creatures covered at the American Littoral Society's eight underwater symposium "Your Future in the Sea," Saturday, March 18, at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

The program, open to the public, runs from 1-5 PM and 8-11 PM.

Among the films and speakers will be Donald Nelson of the University of California with new footage of tropical reef sharks; Eugenie Clark who will cover sand diving fish of the Red Sea; Mike DeCamp on Wedell seals of the Antarctic; and James Atz, of the Museum, with a slide lecture on

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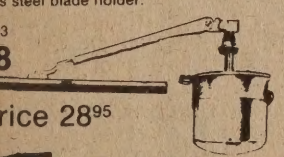


Stock # 9843

11.88

List Price 28.95

Q Beam Spot/Flood Searchlights

200,000 candlepower spot, 100,000 candlepower floodlight. Capable of illuminating objects over a mile away.

Deck Mount

Stock #7323

List Price $51.65 **38.88**

Hand Spot

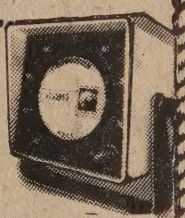
Stock #7321

List Price 39.55 **28.88**

Both lights have 8 ft. coil cord with lighter plug.

511 Depth Finder

by Ray Jefferson



For small boat owners who need a compact reliable Depth finder and fish flasher. Less than 5" square, can be mounted on the dashboard or recessed into the control panel of the smallest outboard and will read depths of 100' and deeper. Completely transistorized flashing neon light operates on 12 volt power supply. Gimbal mounting bracket provided. Internal Circuitry eliminates motor ignition interference. New transducer can be transom mounted or mounted inside the boat. Will read accurately through solid fiberglass - non-flotation hulls.

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No corrosion or rust for longer tank life. Molded of bright red high density polyethelene. No paint to chip or peel. Will not dent under severest conditions. Lightweight — half the weight of comparable metal tanks. Complete with fuel gauge, bleed valve and gasoline coupling. Meets BIA test specifications. Size: 19" x 13" x 10". Weight 8¾ lbs.

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reproductive systems in fishes.

Other topics include: underwater films of fishes of the Gulf of Maine; whales of the Baja, including migrations of the gray whale; the geology and biology of barrier islands and beaches and why they erode; and new films by John Storr on marine animals that live in the valleys between coral reefs.

The Littoral Society will announce the winners of its annual fish tagging program and will present the James Dugan Award for service in the marine sciences.

Tickets cost $3.50 for the daytime program; $5 for the evening, and $7 for both, and can be ordered from the Littoral Society, Highlands, N.J.

200-MILE LIMIT SHOWING SIGNS OF SUCCESS?

William G. Gordon, Regional Director, Northeast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, announced today that the total 1977 New England catch has been estimated at about 560 million pounds valued at approximately $200 million to the fishermen. Compared with 1976, lands increased about 20 million pounds and fishermen received about $25 million more from the harvest.

These data were projected from a report on landings of certain species at selected major New England ports that accounted for nearly seventy percent of the volume and over fifty percent of the value of all landings in 1976. The report listed landings of fish and shellfish at selected major New England ports in 1977 as 374 million pounds valued at $100 million compared with 365 million pounds valued at $90 million in 1976.

BABYLON TUNA CLUB FISHING SCHOOL

The Babylon Tuna Club Fishing School has rescheduled their course dates due to the snow. New students wil be accepted and can participate in ninety percent of the course which commences February 16, 1978.

Scheduled lecturers are:

Feb. 16—Dick Mermon of Shakespeare on striped bass and live bait.

March 2—Ronnie Lepper: best striped bass fisherman in the east on his speciality.

March 9—Oscar Amoroso: charter boat skipper, on blues, fluke, tuna and sharks.

March 16—Dave Kofler: How to tie line hooks, rig-ups, etc.

Chet Zawicki to lecture on flounder and bay species—date to be announced.

For further information, call Scott Gobel or Marty Topel at 516-825-3134 or 516-373-1991.

MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES SYMPOSIUM

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science announces a Marine Recreational Fisheries Symposium will be held on March 29 and 30, 1978 at the OMNI International Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia.

The Fisherman has a limited number of application forms if anyone is seriously interested in attending.

Call us at (516) 725-4200 and we will send the form to you.

LONG ISLAND FLY TYERS LOOKING FOR A FEW NEW MEMBERS

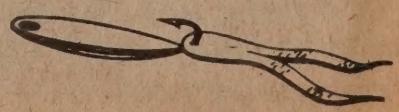
If any of your readers are interested in joining a club dedicated to the art of tying fresh and saltwater flies, they can contact: Woly Wolyniec, 251 Toronto Ave., Massapequa, N.Y. 11758.

All meetings are held at the Bowery Savings Bank in Massapequa.

ST. ANNE'S FISHING CLUB SEEKS AFFILIATION

St. Anne's Fishing Club, an organized group, seeks an affiliation with a similar club on Long Island.

Reason: to share fishing trips, promote fellowship, and share experiences. Contact: T. Gregg, 516-PR 5-2402 or B. Hesse, 212-Ho 5-5989, or write: St. Anne's Fishing Club, 218-38 98th Ave., Queens Village, 11428.



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CLUB NEWS

ATLANTIC BEACH ROD & GUN CLUB NEW OFFICERS

President: Tony Siniscalchi
Vice-President: Lee Rubin
Sec'y: Tommy Tai
Treas.: George Miller
Corrs. Sec'y.: Lou DiResta

NEW BOARD MEMBERS:
Marty Feuer, Larry Kravitz, Lou DiResta, Harry Ross, Oscar Amoroso, Neil Meyer, Robert Brennan, and Bill Levy.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

Attendance— Ernie Grandinetti; **Awards**—Tony Siniscalchi; **Budget**—George Miller; **Orphan's Day**—Lee Rubin; **Inter & Intra Club Tournament**—Larry Kravitz; **Annual Dinner**—Tony Siniscalchi; **Fishing Rules**—Oscar Amoroso; **Five Towns**—Robert Tesch; **Publicity**—Lou DiResta; **Newsletter**—Tommy Tai; **By-Laws**—All Past Presidents; **Sunshine**—Tommy Tai; and **Entertainment**—Marty Feuer.

SQUADRON ANGLERS OFFICERS FOR 1978

The Squadron Anglers of Seaford welcomed the following officers at the January General Membership meeting:

President—Joe Soka; **Vice President**—Dick Rath; **Vice President of Tournaments**—Tom Avellino; **Vice President of Education**—George Gerhold; **Treasurer**—Don Gardner, and **Secretary**—Mike Beitchman.

The Squadron Anglers has openings for anglers interested in joining a fishing club. For information, please call Jay Lev at (516) 799-0420 or Hugh Diamond at (516) PY 9-7566.

POST FISHING CLUB NEW OFFICERS

At our last meeting of the Post Fishing Club, sponsored by American Legion Post 1120 of Lindenhurst, the following members were elected as officers for one year.

Commodore: J. Chelluck; **Vice Commodore:** R. Joyce; **Treasury:** C. Smith; **Recording Secretary:** F. Faerber, and **Corresponding Secretary:** W. Phillips.

N. BROOKHAVEN SPORTFISHERMENS CLUB, INC. ELECTIONS

At the December meeting the following members were elected to the Board of Directors:

President: Tom Rinaldi; **Vice President:** Glen Just; **Treas.:** Dan Marchand; **Financial Sec'y.:** Dom Meola; **Corrs. Sec'y.:** Sandy Maggio; **Rec. Sec'y.:** Victor Elton; **Sgt.-of-Arms:** Cliff McNamara; **Trustees:** Bob Ro-

Attention Readers:

As a result of the blizzard that hit Long Island last week, we have been swamped with calls from readers that were unable to buy their copy of *The Long Island Fisherman* at their local newsstand. If this happened to you and you still want a copy of issue no. 6, one of the special "How-To" issues, just send 50 cents to The Fisherman. We will pay the postage.

The Long Island Fisherman
P.O. Box 1994
Sag Harbor, N.Y.11963

MAKO MARINE

Announces the appointment of:

WHITE WATER MARINE

AS LONG ISLAND'S NEW MAKO DEALERSHIP...

Oak Gentry congratulates Frank Mills (White Water Marine Manager)

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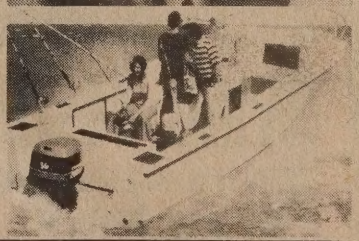
first in outboards



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Personal Attention to Your Fishing Needs!

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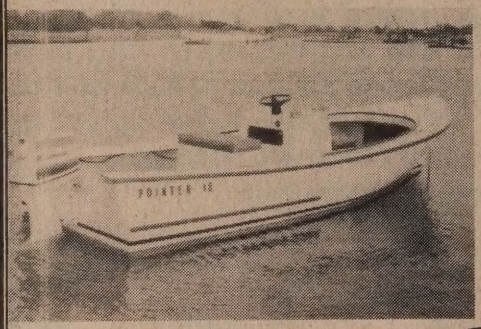
— THE MAINE DESIGNED & MAINE BUILT —

★ POINTER 18 ★



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- HAND LAYUP FIBERGLASS
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- STAINLESS BOLT FASTENED

LENGTH 18' • BEAM 7'4"
CENTER CONSOLE MODEL
$2980 F.O.B.

A Flawlessly Built, Quality Boat!
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(You're invited to come in and see the "POINTER 18")

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senberger, Dom Pucci and John Herson.

Also, we are pleased to announce that at the Feb. 16 meeting at the Shoreham Recreational Center, Scott Simons will speak on Montauk fishing. All are invited and the meeting will be at 8 PM.

We are now open for new members. If you are interested, please call Tom Rinaldi at 516-473-7502.

NEW ANGLER'S FISHING CLUB AWARDS FOR 1977

Albacore—12 lbs., Al Sherman.
Striped Bass— 46 lbs., George Maghin.
Bluefish—17 lbs., Richard Chessler.
Weakfish—10 lbs. 6 oz., Jessie Rosner.
Codfish—33 lbs., Joe Burke, Jim Altschul.
Fluke—7 lbs. 15 oz., Frank Fernandez.
Flounder—2 lbs., Dick Critenden.
Blackfish—6 lbs., Frank Hernandez.
Blue Shark—111 lbs., Richard Chessler.
Mako—67 lbs., Richard Chessler.
Tiger Shark—77 lbs., Fred Choen.
Dolphin—6 lbs. 12 oz., Bill Whisten.
Bluefin Tuna—28 lbs., 12 oz., Bill Whisten.
Bonito—1 lb. 10 oz., Tom O'Brian.
Skip Jack—7 lbs. 8 oz., Jim Altschul.

New Anglers are looking for new members. Contact Leonard Richards, 536-7933.

DOUBLE T FISHING CLUB OFFICERS

The Double T Fishing Club of Elmont has elected the following officers for 1978.

President: Jerry Kappauf
1st Vice-Pres: Steve Kearney
2nd Vice Pres: Angelo DePiero
Secretary: Steve Kearney
Treas: Dan Ahern
Sgt.-at-Arms: Roy Kappauf

Trophy winners for 1977 season are as follows: Steve Kearney, Jerry Kappauf, Al Kellner, and Jimmy Noonan.

LONG BEACH STRIPER CLUB AWARDS

The Long Beach Striped Bass Club, which finished First in N.Y. State, and second overall, in the Fisherman contest, has announced its 1977 winners for its club contest.

Surf Bass:
1st Place—R. Librando, 55 lbs. 8 oz.
2nd Place—P. Hoercher, 50 lbs. 3 oz.
2rd Place—A. Mendola, 46 lbs. 1 oz.

BOAT BASS:
*R. Onorato, 61 lbs. 12 oz.
J. Dotsee, 47 lbs. 1 oz.
J. Hughes, 43 lbs. 4 oz.

LARGEST SURF BLUE:
A. Mendola, 17 lbs.

LARGEST BOAT BLUE:
R. Onorato, 21 lbs.

***R. Onorato's 61 lb. 12 oz. bass was the largest New York State Bass for 1977.**

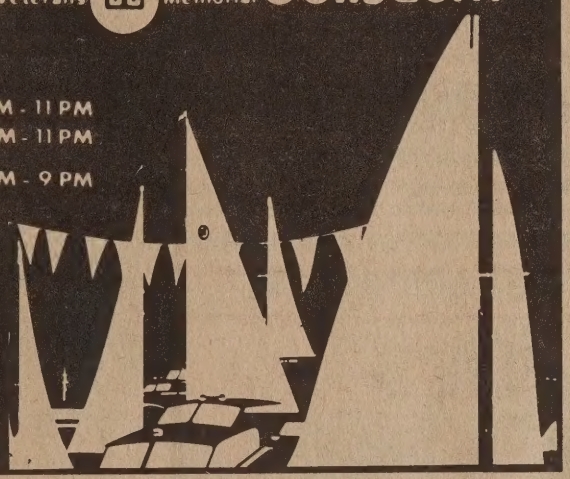
BOAT SHOW

FEB. 18-26, 1978

Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum

WEEKDAYS ... 6 PM - 11 PM
SATURDAYS ... 1 PM - 11 PM
SUNDAYS and HOLIDAYS ... 2 PM - 9 PM

Admission:
3.75 Adults,
1.75 Children



MAKO BUYERS WANTED!

If you're thinking of buying a Mako, Aquasport, Robalo or any other center console boat, you owe it to yourself to

COMPARE!

ALL NEW 22' SEA SPRAY

FIRST TIME SHOWING ON LONG ISLAND!

Designed especially for serious fishermen! Truly the best way to get to blue water without going into the red!

COMPLETE with 140HP JOHNSON

with Tilt and Trim

Heavy Duty 12 volt battery and box, anchor, line, preservers, flare kit, console cover, Bimini top.
LOADED AND HOT TO GO!!!

ALL FOR ONE LOW, LOW,

Specially Priced **$7,995.00**

★ *Regular Price $9,536.80* ★

ONE LOOK COULD SAVE YOU $1,000! *YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF!*

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Route 25, 3 miles East of Smithtown, or Exit 56 L.I.E. North on Route 111 to Route 25, then East 3 miles.

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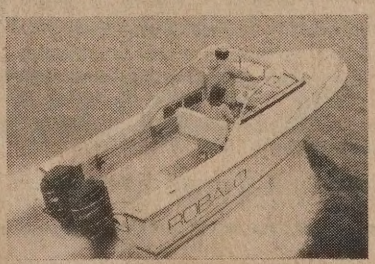
RUN WITH THE BEST!

Big 9' 8" Beam! Get there and back in comfort and safety!!!

★ ROBALO ★



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Won't let the big ones get away—whether at Montauk, the Gut or the Acid Waters. Available in O/B or I/O.

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FISHING MACHINES. *for those who know the difference.*

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WE HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED
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PENN, GARCIA & ZEBCO REPAIR CENTER • ALL PARTS IN STOCK • ALL ROD REPAIRS
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40% OFF LIST—GLOUCESTER BOTTOM PAINTS!!!

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★ TI-9000 ★
$2095
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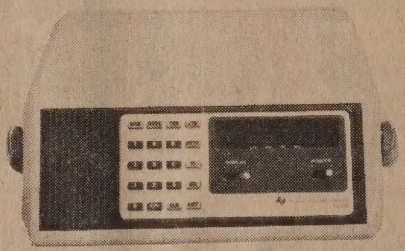

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BOATING

U.S. POWER SQUADRON BOATING COURSE

The Captree Power Squadron invites all men, women, and older teens, who are interested in learning how to operate a boat safely, to attend our spring Safe Boating Class, to be held on Wednesday, March 1, 1978 at the Lindenhurst Junior High School, 350 South Wellwood Ave., Lindenhurst, New York. Registration will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the main cafeteria.

Safety is the name of the game in the free boating instructions offered. The proper operation of all types of boats, including the family outboard, is emphasized. It is not necessary to be a boat owner.

Aimed to teach the knowledge required for safe boating, these courses are intensive, hard-driving sessions conducted each week by experienced boatmen, for approximately ten weeks and will lay a basic foundation for building boating skills by further study, application and experience.

Those who pass the final examination will be issued a certificate and should consider themselves as having attained the basic knowledge necessary to keep themselves and their boating compansions alive while on the water.

U.S.C.G. AUXILIARY COURSES

February 22:
12 lesson Boating Skills and Safety, Mamaroneck H.S., Mamaroneck, New York, sponsored by Flotilla 63. Contact F.C. Tom Brady, 914-472-5795.

February 28:
12 lesson Boating Skills and Safety (Power and Sail), Pelham H.S., Pelham, New York. Sponsored by Flotilla 65. Contact F.C. H. Heyer, 914-699-4297.

March 5:
4 lesson N. Y. State Young Boatmen's Course at Mamaroneck Village Hall. Registration February 16. Sponsored by Flotilla 63. Contact F.C. Tom Brady, 914-472-5795.

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY BOATING COURSES

Division XXII, U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, has announced the following boating courses:

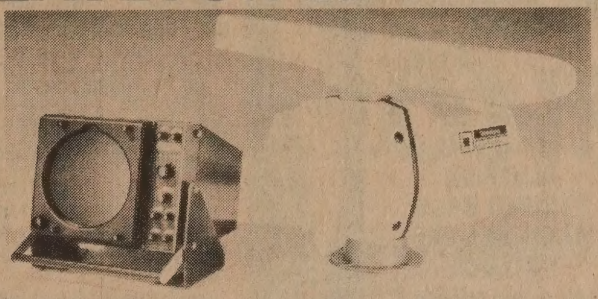
Flotilla 22-4, 13 lesson course in Boating Skills and Seamanship to be given at Wilson Technical H.S., Laurel Hill Rd., Northport, starting Wednesday, February 25. Contact Roger Hill, 757-0587.

Flotilla 22-6, 12 lesson course in Boating Skills and Seamanship at Middleville J.H.S., Northport, starting Wednesday, March 1.

NEW from EPSCO Brocks

SEAVEYOR EB RADAR

★ LARGE, EXTRA BRIGHT DISPLAY TUBE
★ EASY 2 PIECE INSTALLATION
★ ½ MI. to 36 MI. RANGE
★ 3KW PEAK POWER



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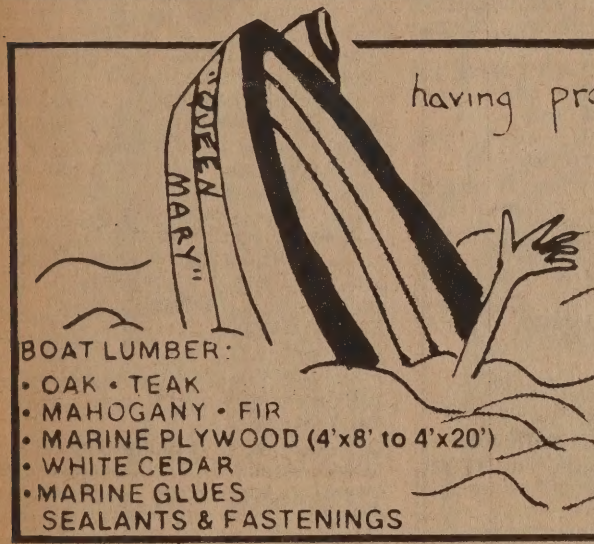

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BOAT LUMBER:
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- MAHOGANY • FIR
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- WHITE CEDAR
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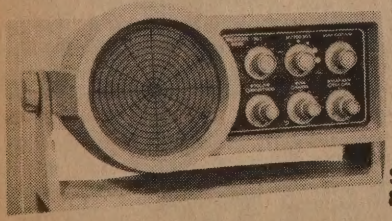
EXPANDS FISH LOCATING ABILITY
—Easy to Install. Easy to Operate—
Valuable for Trolling, Gillnetting, Bottom Fishing, or Sportfishing!



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SCAN FROM 50 TO 800 FEET UNDERWATER!

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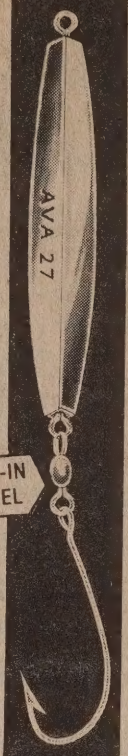

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BLUEFISH
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Extra Strong Mustad O'Shaughnessy Hook. Free-swinging barrel swivel increases action of lure . . . cuts down on fish loss. A great lure . . . now even greater!

BUILT-IN SWIVEL

AVA 27G (Golden Plate) is a proven killer on Weakfish when squidded close to the bottom.

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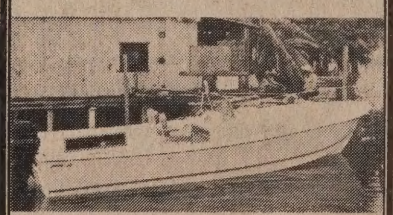

20' SPORTSMAN
w/1978 70 H.P. EVINRUDE
Bimini Top • Top Mount Controls
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—In Water, Ready-to-Go—

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20' PRO-LINE CUDDY w/85 H.P. EVINRUDE **$6495**

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Sports Marina

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CHUM LINES

READER SUGGESTS MOLD CO.

If you are looking for a reliable mold company, I think this one will help both you and your readers. Most of their molds are custom made from samples you send them. As you can see by the sample I've enclosed for you, they come out clean. It takes about a month to receive the mold. Ament Mold Co., 402 Capelle Grain Valley, Mo. 64029. **J. Layne, Bx., N.Y.**

We agree. The specimen you sent us is clean. Thanks for the tip.

READER ASKS FOR CAPTAIN LEPPER

My husband and I enjoy fishing. We also enjoy reading your magazine. Most of the articles are very interesting.

However, we do miss "Ask the Captain." That was one of our favorite columns.

We sincerely hope it will be back soon. **Mrs. Anne Esposito.**

We've made no policy change regarding Ask the Captain. However, there have been few inquiries lately due to a combination of the holiday rush, poor weather, and the flu bug. Any readers with questions for Captain Lepper should send them to Captain Lepper c/o The Long Island Fisherman.

PHYSICIAN WARNS AGAINST DANGERS OF POURING LEAD

I read with interest the article on how to make sinkers, written by Mr. Matt Ahern in the January 5 issue of The Long Island Fisherman. As a physician, I was quite concerned over the fact that nowhere in the article was mention made that lead is a highly toxic material which can accumulate within the body and which is normally stored in the bones. In Mr. Ahern's article, he mentioned that he used an old aluminum pot and a ladle deep enough to hold about a half-pint of molten lead and that any gas or electric stove could supply the temperatures needed to melt the lead. A very important point was omitted: that molten lead is released into the surrounding environment and can be inhaled, and on long enough exposure, can produce acute toxicity. All adults are susceptible and children are particularly so. Therefore, I feel it is important to call to the attention of your readers that if sinker making is to be engaged in, adequate exhaust ventilation from the stove to the outside of the house is essential and that if this is not available, the very least that should be done is to open all windows in the room in which the lead melting is taking place. The latter precaution is much less satisfactory than the exhaust ventilation to which I have already referred. I can assure you that I am not attempting to use scare tactics, but the suggestion is being offered as a constructive one to avoid unnecessary intake of lead. Respirators could also be used to prevent inhalation of lead, but I am sure that your readers would not have these readily available to them.

To put this matter in perspective, may I call your attention to the U.S. News & World Report, January 30 issue, page 74, which cautions against burning colored comic or magazine sections of newspapers in an attempt to start a fire in your fireplace or backyard grill because this pollutes the neighborhood with lead, according to the American Medical Association. This is due to the fact that ink used in color printing contains lead which is introduced into the air by burning. If the AMA is concerned about the minute amounts of lead contained in colored paper, picture, if you will, how much more lead is delivered to one's own environment by melting this material in the confined spaces of a kitchen or a workshop which is not adequately ventilated.

As an avid fisherman for more than 50 years, I want to do everything that I can to protect the well-being of my fellow anglers. With all my best wishes. **Robert M. Clyne, M.D.**

Right you are! We appreciate that you took the time to alert us about our obvious oversight. Fishermen have been practicing a lot of skills and techniques that are potentially hazardous. We have taken it for granted for so many years that it's hard to remember that we owe it to ourselves and others to avoid hazardous materials and practices.

We are confident that your considerate warning will have a significant impact on our readers. We know that it has on us. We recently poured a few lead-heads, and did so with windows open to improve ventilation. Thanks for your comments.

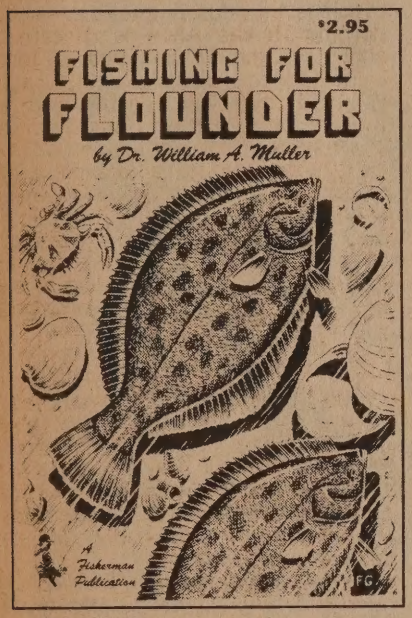
STRIPED BASS PROBLEM NEEDS ATTENTION

Striped bass is without a doubt, the number one inshore game fish. Unlike bluefish who simply have to be there in order to be caught, the bass more often will require a little cunning to coach him onto a hook. Striped bass are caught in rivers, bays, oceans, lakes, sounds, harbors, creeks, and whatever; from Maine to California, in salt and fresh water. It will not be long before every state in the Union can offer the sports angler striped bass fishing. They deserve better than the fate present day trends predict.

It was only four years back that the bass were in heavy numbers and available, up and down Long Island. It seemed like almost everyday you could find a school of small bass to throw a bucktail at. Fall fishing was what it was supposed to be—great. Last year the bass had an eighteen

FISHERMAN PUBLICATIONS

At last! Books on local fish written by local fishermen for local fishermen! Published by The Fisherman for our readers.



FISHING FOR FLOUNDER

by Dr. William A. Muller

The first book EVER to be published exxclusively on techniques for catching winter flounder. Separate chapters cover topics like *Baits, Rigging Up, Scientific Information, Chumming Techniques, How-To Locate Flounder, Where-To Go, Fishing Techniques*—also an entire chapter on how to clean and cook this table favorite. Fully illustrated by Fred Guardineer, photos. 96 Pages.

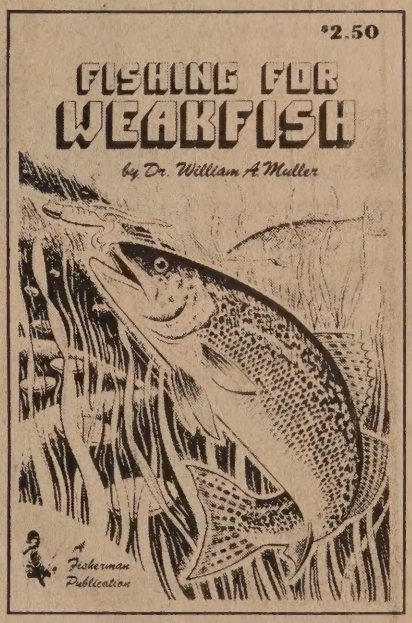
$3.45 *Includes postage, Handling & Sales Tax*

FISHING FOR FLUKE

by Scott Simons

The first book EVER to be published exclusively on how to catch fluke! Contains complete chapters on *Tackle, Equipment, Rigging Up, Natural Baits, Bottom Formations, Drifting, Trolling, Chumming* and *Artificial Lures*. Illustrated with over 85 photographs and diagrams by Fred Guardineer. 112 Pages.

$3.45 *Includes Postage, Handling & Sales Tax*



FISHING FOR WEAKFISH

by Dr. William A. Muller

The first all-new book to be published on the art of catching weakfish in more than 25 years! Entire chapters devoted to covering topics such as *Tackle, Artificial Lures, Natural Baits, Rigging Up, Cooking & Cleaning*, and extensive chapter on *Where-To-Go*.

$2.95 *Includes Postage, Handling & Sales Tax*

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pound average; casting was terrible (ask any surfcaster), and a fish under ten pounds was rare.

What happened? Where did all the schoolies go to? Four years ago when they appeared in abundance they were strenuously hunted by commercial interests. Since then the gillnetters can hardly catch enough to eat. Occasionally a good score shows up on the docks. This is rare. The bass that swim our shores—at least here at Montauk—are in deep water and out of the reach of gillnetters and haul-seiners. Once again, ask any surfcaster.

Haul seiners here at eastern Long Island have just about given up. Even blues and weaks stayed outside the shallows once spring had passed. Bass were scarce this season all along the coast. Just check out the market price of bass this year—they were higher than ever. Every year they go higher in price. The market is determined by supply and demand.

The causes (of the decline) are obvious. Pollution is primary and overfishing a factor not to be overlooked, not only by commercial interests but also by hook and line part-timers. The states which allow the netting of bass are few in number. Most East Coast states have stringent laws regarding the catching of bass.

In California you cannot fish at night with a hook and line, let alone a net.

New York is still the wild, wild west when it comes to conservation. Even Massachusetts which is the "down to the sea in ships" state, the "iron men in wooden ships" tradition, has a no net law on striped bass. Perhaps the Chesapeake Bay states are the only part of the country where a major effort is applied in the commercial pursuit of striped bass. Still, they see the folly of their ways and are, at present, trying to pass some legislation controlling the catching of bass.

A group of Maryland charter boat operators and commercial water men have agreed to **work together** to save striped bass. Their attitude is, "If everybody fights over the fish, we all lose." A mutual solution was sought to help solve the declining catches of bass. Laws were proposed, such as: (1) Forbidding gillnetting in the Maryland portion of Chesapeake Bay from June 1 to September 30; (2) A two-year moratorium on fishing for striped bass; (3) Making certain bridge areas a sanctuary for bass; (4) Forbidding all fishing for bass within 1,000 yards of bridges; and (5) A creel limit on sport fishing.

Their fears and concerns are similar to what I see taking place. They feel that the Bay is being overworked by "too many people on the water." High bass prices at the market have attracted "fly-by-nighters in it for the buck," not caring about the end result—only the monetary gains of present. The similiarity to what I see happening in the Maryland portion of Chesapeake Bay (according to the January issue of "National Fisherman") to that of Montauk, gives cause for concern. More and more fishermen; less and less bass!

Sophisticated equipment and smarter fishermen are delivering a one-two punch to the bass stocks. How long can you keep going to the well? Day and night, the striper is pursued—the money value, not the sport, being of primary interest. Of course, a little of both for those with the skill to make marketable catches.

Stripers are not the only market fish to be had. The absence of bass on the retail market would force the price of other species to rise. Bluefish and weakfish—sporting fish to catch—would go up in market value.

I can see striped bass becoming the first nationally-legislated game fish in our country. With that would go a required fishing license, the revenues from which would be spent on the constant battle of pollution and the propagation of the species. Perhaps a commercial year, or time of year, could be offered when stocks are plentiful.

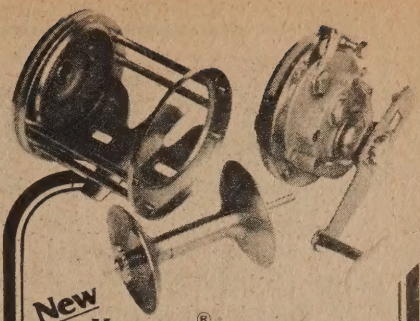
Bass fishing has become worse because of the lack of fish. There is no big striped bass machine in the sky that will shower us with fish; nor are they hiding somewhere off in the deep intending to attack our shores next season like the Normandy invasion.

Just what do you want? Shall we continue along this commercial road until the species has been eliminated, or would you rather be able to catch bass until you're too old to lift your rod? Unfortunately, things will have to become a lot more dreary than the contemporary picture before anything decisive is done. That is simply a lesson in history.

We are our worst enemy. As a mass we pollute and we destroy. In doing so, we all fall guilty. How on earth can we expect the corporate giants to respect our cries for cleaner spawning grounds if we don't take the necessary steps in conservation at our level. How can the fishermen, the sports fishermen, have a valid argument if they can be statistically proven to be responsible for the largest amount of bass that reach the market areas. Who would listen? Just another joker trying to feather his own nest.

Alas, this will open the door to the bureaucratic monster. This is inevitable. Did you know that a commercial sport fishing boat now needs a government license to catch codfish? That is a sample of the future. A future that doesn't look good for the next generation of fishermen.

If I had to decide whether I wanted bass now commercially and the uncertain future of what goes with that, or bass forever without the market value, I would have to choose the latter—even if that meant a change of occupation. I'm sure I would survive and so would anyone else engaged in the commercial pursuit of striped bass. **Capt. John DeMaio, Montauk, N.Y.**



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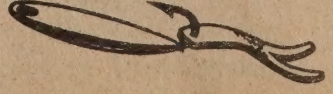

NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

Twenty-six Inch Striper Limit Surprisingly Well Accepted at Striper Meeting

The symposium on striped bass sponsored by Save Our Stripers (SOS) at the VFW Hall in Hicksville on January 28, produced some real surprises. After the audience heard the details about declining striper production there was a genuine willingness on the part of everyone in attendance (from ordinary fishermen to charter skippers) to make whatever sacrifices will be necessary to preserve a viable striper fishery.

Certainly the most controversial proposal should have been the twenty-six inch length limit proposed for coastal areas by Maryland scientist, Ben Florence. However, Ben explained the situation in such clear terms that not a single voice was raised in opposition. Indeed, I was the only one who seriously questioned the suggestion, and then simply on the basis that it would be difficult to get charter skippers to go along with it. Montauk charter captain, Frank Braddick was in attendance and he felt that the other east end skippers could be talked into it. If that could ever be done, this would be the time to do it, as fish under twenty-six inches are becoming almost unusual and, therefore, few would actually be thrown back.

Ben Florence presented a rather unique overview of the striped bass population. He divides it into three segments: the adult population that we fish for along the coast is composed primarily of females and represents the basic spawning stock. Then there is the population of pre-adults, schoolies that start migrating before sexual maturity. Virtually all females leave Chesapeake Bay at age two. The third population consists of male stripers that reside in the Chesapeake. This creates a unique situation whereby the coastal areas must be dependent upon the Chesapeake for the production of stripers, but the spawning stock remains totally out of the controls established in the nursery areas throughout most of the year.

Ben estimated that about six percent of the adult stock is harvested each year. The adult coastal stock is in fair shape, but is declining rapidly due to increasing fishing pressure and the lack of a good year class since 1970. It is the remnants of this stock that provided the fine striper fishing at Montauk this fall. Ben placed the stocks of the second population (schoolies) at "low ebb." The third population (males) is harvested almost entirely in the bay. That catch has dropped from 5,000,000 pounds in 1973 to 1,000,000 pounds in 1977. The net result, according to Ben, will be a drastic decline in striped bass catches in three to five years—unless we are blessed with a great year class in-between!

Maryland has long conducted annual surveys of spawning success in their river systems. As a result, they can provide very accurate estimates of population trends as there is a direct relationship between fingerlings observed in the fall and the harvest of schoolies three years later. Since 1970 spawning years have been average. Under the pressures exerted on the population in this day and age, "average" year classes are not enough! During the past year there were some areas that had fine fishing on adult fish. Montauk, Nantucket, Pleasant Bay, and Provincetown were especially fortunate, but results were very poor on the New Jersey coast and in Cape Cod Bay. To give you an idea of what might be ahead, Ben noted that in Chesapeake Bay (where most of the catch consists of young males) the average angler had to make seven trips to catch one bass!

The outlook in the Hudson River isn't much better, according to Byron Young of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. Unfortunately, there is no history of consistent survey work on fingerlings in the Hudson such as there is in the Chesapeake. However, seining surveys have been carried out during the past few years. The bad news is that even within that period there has been a significant decrease in the population levels. In 1975, the average seining operation by the biologists produced nineteen stripers over three inches for tagging. Each of the past two years, the results dropped off to an average of one or two per haul. Needless to say, Byron is also worried about the striped bass picture for the future.

As lead-off speaker at the symposium, I emphasized that, as a practical matter, the only controllable factor in striped bass abundance at this time is fishing pressure. Invariably anglers and commercial fishermen will point at degradation of the environment, increasing numbers of power plants, and the introduction of insidious chemicals into the habitat. They'll look at that situation and insist it's the cause of all our problems; therefore, do something about all that and let me continue catching all I want. It should be perfectly obvious that such a position is simply a cop-out! It's undoubtedly true (at least to some extent) that these factors are a problem in striper production, but they can only be attacked in the long term. Fishermen, just as everyone else, want electricity in their homes. Power plants must be built to satisfy **our** demand—our duty is to see that the environmental damage they cause is minimized. Laws have been passed to prevent the

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continued discharge of PCBs. Yet the damage has already been done and will be with us for many years into the future. Indeed, the Hudson was loaded with PCBs when striped bass had successful spawning years in the past. As distasteful as it may be, the only controllable factor is the harvest of the remaining stock—and we'd better face up to that fact while there's still time to do something about it!

Ben Florence spoke in exactly the same vein. He noted experimental work which showed the viability of eggs being destroyed by relatively low levels of PCBs, and also showing high survival rates in other stripers with high doses of the same pollutants. It appears that, as with human beings, there is a great variation in the adaptability of individual stripers to different conditions. Fortunately, there is no PCB problem in the Chesapeake and most of their waters are still in pretty good shape. Nevertheless, they have lost much of the weed growth that may well play an important part in the life cycle of fingerling bass, and it is true that all estuarine spawners in Maryland (shad, bay anchovy, white perch, silversides, etc.) are declining. In spite of all this, the hard fact is that fishing pressure must be lessened. Maryland already protects bass over fifteen pounds, but permits the harvest of twelve inch fish. Ben is trying to get the length limit pushed up to fourteen inches even though that will sharply reduce their harvest and allow more stripers to migrate along the coasts. However, it will also protect more males for spawning.

The other side of the coin involves cooperation by the coastal states that harvest practically all the females. In order to provide a surplus of healthy fish for spawning purposes, Ben proposed that each coastal state increase their length limits to about twenty-six inches. This would permit the fish to spawn at least once. Maryland is also trying to help here by closing off certain areas to netting and requiring a smaller mesh size so large bass (that must be released) won't become gilled and die in the nets. Things have gotten so bad there that the commercial fishermen are finally talking to the sportsmen and are willing to accept some restrictions. If you don't think it's time for us to think the same way, consider the charter boat fleet at Annapolis which used to fish exclusively for stripers ("rock" in Maryland). Last summer only two boats stuck it out, while the rest went bluefishing. If the blues don't show up in the bay next summer, it will be all over for that fleet!

Primarily due to Ben's lucid explanation of the situation, it seemed that everyone attending this meeting was willing to "bite the bullet" with the twenty-six inch limit and catch restrictions that would apply to both

(Continued on page 43.)

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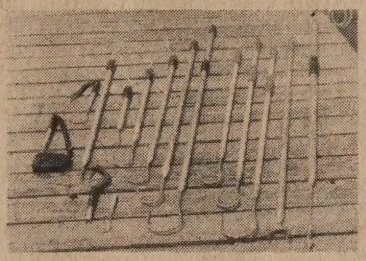

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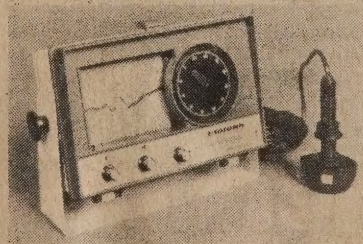

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Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

How-To Clean Fish

The art of fish cleaning isn't difficult. There are fishermen, however, who regard fish cleaning as not only a chore, but a genuine nuisance to boot. Some of these fellows will go so far as to give their fish away rather than tackle the job themselves—which I believe is foolishness of the first order. There are also fishermen who view the job as a necessary evil, going about the task with ill-feeling and heavy-handed methods, glad always to be over and done with it.

Sure, I know there are times when even the most ardent fisherman looks at his catch and groans inwardly as he realizes his fishing day is not yet over. But by and large, most fishermen don't mind fish cleaning. Some, surprisingly, enjoy it. Unquestionably, these are the fellows who are good fishermen, for this trait seems to go hand-in-hand with anglers of this caliber.

There are as many ways to clean fish as there are to skin the proverbial cat. Many methods are wasteful, however, and I often find myself wincing when I see the mayhem inflicted by unskilled fishermen. It's a shame, too, when it's so easy to do a good job.

A sharp knife and an efficient scaler are necessary. The scaler should have an offset handle to avoid contact with such sharp-spined fish as sea bass and porgies. If you intend to fillet, a good fillet knife is mandatory.

And you might as well make up your mind that it's important to buy the best knife you can afford. There are so many reasonably-priced fish knives on the market, I just don't understand why fishermen try to save a buck when making their selection. There is more to a knife than meets the eye.

Remember, cheap knives—no matter how fine they appear to be—lack the qualities necessary for your job. While a good non-slip handle is important, it is not as important as the blade itself. Spend an extra buck or two and get the best. And whatever you do, don't substitute a reject from the kitchen. It just will not do.

If you plan to fillet, it is then important to use a good fillet knife. Avoid "Hong Kong" specials like the plague. In order to do a satisfactory fillet job, your knife must be able to hold its edge long enough to fillet several fish before it needs "touching-up."

The "secret" of a good fillet job is to use a knife with a thin, sharp, flexible blade. This type of knife will enable you to follow the contour of the fish with ease. There are many fine American and imported brands to choose from. Be certain to get one with a name you recognize.

Occasionally you'll need to hone the blade. A carborundum stone having a rough surface on one side and a fine finish on the other is ideal. You'll find that most times all you need do is to lightly run the blade over the fine side several times to bring back the original razor-sharpness. This is the advantage of using a good knife. A cheap knife will not hold its edge long eough for you to do a satisfactory job. And to do a satisfactory job, you must be able to slice through the fish with clean, deft strokes.

Experienced fishermen use a set method when cleaning their catch. All fish are scaled first; then washed to remove loose scales, slime, and knife-dulling sand and dirt. It is always best to wash fish in sea water; fresh water softens the flesh of saltwater fish. If tap water is used, fish must be washed quickly—soaking should be avoided!

I'll give my methods of cleaning all fish except flounder and fluke—those I always fillet unless I intend to use a large one for baking. (Baked flounder and fluke are delicious.)

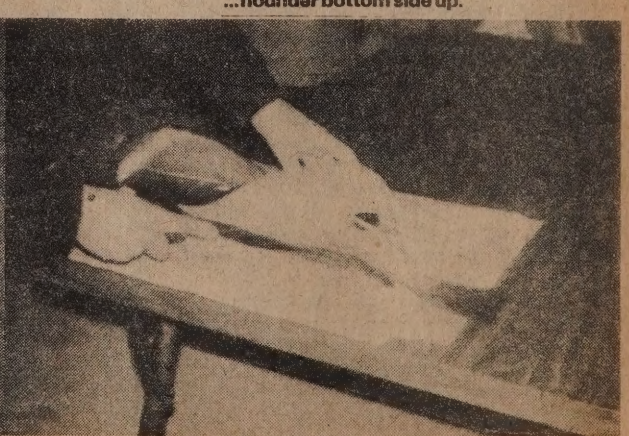
Select a fish and grasp securely by the head. Insert the knife completely through the side just aft of the

(Continued on page 23.)

Begin filleting fluke with top side up...

...flounder bottom side up.

Large flounder like this 3-lber. are excellent for baking.



Fillet small codfish for good eating.

THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

(1) THIS SPAWNING TROUT IS SWEEPING THE SILT FROM HER LIE ☐ NEST ☐ REDD ☐

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

(2) THIS ICE FISHING DEVICE IS CALLED A JIGGING ROD ☐ TIP UP ☐ TILT ☐ TROT LINE ☐

GOLDEN TROUT ←

(3) ADULT EELS SPAWN AND DIE IN THE SARGASSO SEA, BUT NO ADULT EEL HAS EVER BEEN SEEN SWIMMING TO THE SARGASSO AND NO EGGS HAVE EVER BEEN FOUND. TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

(4) WHERE IS THE BEST TROUT FISHING IN THE WORLD? NEW ENGLAND ☐ ARGENTINA ☐ NEW ZEALAND ☐

(5) HORDES OF THESE INSECTS WILL APPEAR IN THE NORTHEAST THIS SPRING AND ARE GOOD FISH BAIT. THEY ARE GRASSHOPPERS ☐ CICADAS ☐ TERMITES ☐

(6) SNOOK ARE POPULAR FLORIDA GAME FISH AND ARE OFTEN CAUGHT IN BRACKISH WATER. TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

1 - REDD. 2 - TIP UP OR TILT. 3 - TRUE. AND NEVER HAVE ANY EEL EGGS BEEN FOUND IN THE SARGASSO DESPITE THOUSANDS OF TRAWL ATTEMPTS TO FIND THEM. 4 - ARGENTINA. TROUT FISHERMEN RATE THE STREAMS FLOWING DOWN THE EASTERN SLOPES OF THE ANDES AS BEST. TROUT WERE STOCKED THERE 50 YEARS AGO AND GREW FAST AND BIG ON THE NATIVE SMALL RED CONGEO CRABS. 5 - PERIODICAL OR 17 YEAR LOCUSTS. 6 - TRUE.

The reel screamed a shrill protest to the line being taken out against the drag, calling to mind past encounters with worthy saltwater battlers such as pollock, bluefish, and tuna. The rod bowed like a limp strand of over-cooked linguine, agonizing against the stresses being applied by an irresistible force meeting an immovable object. Visions of fancied game fish danced through my head, much as visions of sugarplums must have danced through the heads of those kids in that Christmas epic, "A Visit from St. Nicholas."

What snapped my reverie and brought me back to harsh reality, was the plain fact that I was standing on my dock at the marina and fishing in eight feet of water, close to the rocky shore of the Country Club section of Pelham Bay, in The Bronx. The line peeling off the reel was a mere wisp of monofilament, tournament tested at six pounds, and wound onto an open-faced spinning reel that looked like some kid's toy. In reality, the reel is a precision instrument, manufactured to rigid specifications, and performing as admirably as a fine Swiss watch.

Surf Side with Andy Regina

Matchsticks & Spiderwebs

That bent spaghetti was a five-foot Fiberglas rod weighing a total of two-and-one-half ounces—reel seat, guides, tiptop, and wraps included. The complete outfit—rod, reel and two hundred yards of line—weighs a grand total of twelve-and-one-half ounces. Think of it: an efficient saltwater outfit weighing less than one pound!

Of course, I was using an ultra-light spinning outfit, and the envisioned "monster" was a school striper of about six pounds that fell victim to a tiny plug weighing only one-quarter of an ounce. Later that day some nice white perch were caught at that same place, on that same tackle, with midget spinners weighing one-eighth of an ounce.

All this took place on a Sunday morning, in a heavily-trafficked area you would normally overlook in your desire to get out to the fishing grounds. Veteran fishermen might scoff at fishing this close to shore, but I say fish wherever and whenever you can, and enjoy yourself while doing so. Why travel miles offshore, hunting big game with heavy tackle? I find trolling monotonous, and the fun of fighting any fish caught this way is usually lost by using tackle that weighs several pounds, with a reel loaded with wire line that weighs several more pounds. The rod is generally as flexible as a broomstick, and most fish caught via trolling are usually horsed in while the boat continues moving.

Think I'm crazy? Well, maybe so, but if you've ever gone this route, you'll know what I mean. If you happen to get your own personal kicks in this manner it's okay with me, but I personally think that it's too much like work to be enjoyable. After all, let's face it—why go fishing, if not to enjoy yourself? If your reason is to get food for your table, take my advice and buy your fish at the market—you'll save money that way, and you will be guaranteed a meal. If, as I suspect, your reason for going fishing is to enjoy yourself, why not go light?

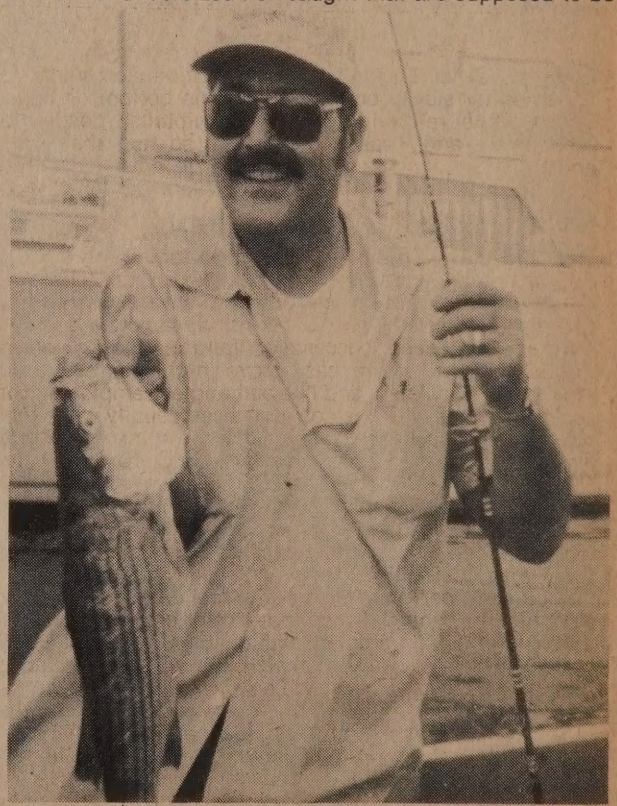
Not only is ultra-light easy on the body, it is a highly efficient method of fishing that can be extremely productive. For some strange reason, fish that normally refuse everything you throw at them are suckers for a tiny bait or lure. You can argue the why's and wherefors regarding this phenomenom till you're blue in the fact, expounding theories, scientific suppositions, ideas, or guesses pro or con, but the fact remains that this is true. Maybe the finer diameter of the lighter test lines used in ultra-light fishing is less visible in the water, causing wary fish to be less cautious. Maybe the tiny lures more closely resemble prevalent bait—sort of like matching the hatch in fly fishing. Maybe it's the thought of easy pickin's of helpless babies that triggers a killer instinct in fish, or perhaps they find young stuff more "tender." I honestly do not know. I do know that ultra-light lures often succeed where everything else has failed, and you can take that to the bank.

Bottom fishing with ultra-light tackle can be a ball, introducing you to thrills never before realized with panfish. The use of extremely light, fine diameter lines used in ultra-light fishing offers a minimum of water resistance, permitting you to fish bottom with exceptionally light sinkers that do not detract from the slightest nibble. These slight nibbles are imparted to your fingertips immediately by the ultra-sensitive rod tip, resulting in more hooking opportunities; thus, by sheer odds, increasing your successful hooking ratio.

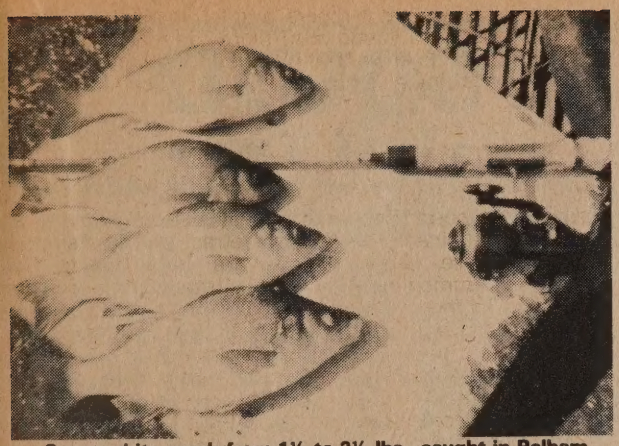
These mini-sinkers afford you an additional advantage by not hampering the fighting qualities of such little scrappers as porgies and flounders, which can put up a good account of themselves providing they do not have to drag around too much lead. Combine this with the fact that now these little fish do not also have to hassle with heavy lines set on drags too tight to permit protest, and you have the makings of a fair day's fishing fun.

Even "trash" fish, such as sea robins, sundials, and bergalls, taken on ultra-light tackle, can cause you to wonder why they ever were mistakenly called "trash." They also fight well on ultra-light tackle because they are not overmatched. Caught on heavier tackle, they become "just another damned bergall," and are usually senselessly killed out of frustration or anger. I do not mean to imply that you should specifically seek out these particular fish, but if they are caught incidentally while fishing for more desirable species, enjoy the sport they, too, provide and release them unharmed to resume their place in nature's scheme of things.

Ultra-light fishing invites experimentation. While fishing for flounder, try substituting tiny, one-eighth ounce Boone Shad jigs for the standard bottom rig of a hook and sinker. Sweeten these lures with two-inch pieces of seaworm and bounce them on the bottom. These jigs will consistently produce larger fish while reducing the amount of undersized fish caught that are supposed to be



The author with a 5-lb. striped bass caught on alphabet plug, Lamiglas 5' Ultra Light rod, Garcia 300 reel and 6-lb. test Ande monofilament line.



Some white perch from 1½ to 2½ lbs., caught in Pelham Bay, N.Y., on 2" white Mister Twister Teeny Tail, 6-lb. test Ande line, South Bend 5' U.L. rod and South Bend U.L. reel.

released unharmed. Although we are often outfished by our fishing cronies, we invariably wind up with the bragging sized fish that are easily filleted and greatly welcomed on the dinner table.

Successful experimentation depends upon acute observation, and ultra-light fishing demands critical observation on the part of the angler to achieve even minor experimental success. We noticed the hordes of small bait fish near our marina and attempted to "match the hatch" by simulating their size and color using miniature lures manufactured expressly for freshwater fishing. We were pleasantly surprised when we started catching many varieties of fish with these lures, right there at the dock. The fish were stripers, bluefish, white perch, and fluke. Since then we have made it a point to fish there quite regularly, and have been happily rewarded for our efforts many times. Granted, most fish are small, but the fun and thrill of catching them on such light tackle more than compensates for the time and effort involved, and the occasional large fish taken there further rewards the attempt.

Ultra-light lures that have proven effective have been: tiny jigs, either bucktails or the plastic-tailed varieties, fished either slowly bounced along the bottom or jigged slowly while retrieving; Tri-Fin Whiptails, deadly for school bass and weakfish, retrieved so that they swim enticingly; small plugs of all types, retrieved slowly, either with jigging or without added movement, as befits each individual plug's action.

Borrowing secrets from our southern cousins, no mean slouches in their own right, and adding a bit of bait to jigs greatly increases your chances of catching fish. Tipping jigs with tiny pieces of worm, shrimp or squid, as well as fly-rod sized pieces of pork rind, can often spell the difference between success or failure. Plastic worms rigged "Texas" style can prove highly effective for stripers and weakfish, and live bait anglers employing this same technique with live seaworms can usually write their own ticket, especially at night. Simply run the end of your line through the hole provided for this purpose in bullet sinkers, tying the line directly to the eye of hook with an improved clinch knot. Then thread the worm onto the hook all the way past the eye, bringing the hook point through the worm body so as not to cause any unnatural bend in the worm. Cast and retrieve v-e-r-y slowly.

Smooth, perfectly functioning reel drags are the keys to ultra-light fishing. Drags that stutter or bind will cause undue strain on the line and will enable even small fish to break it. Therefore, choose a reel that offers the smoothest operating drag, and learn to use it properly.

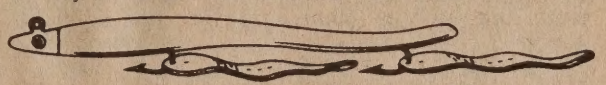
We prefer to fish with one-piece rods, believing that light tackle offers a better "feel," although there are many fine two-piece rods available, many with glass-to-glass ferrules that eliminate dead spots along the length of the rod. Here the choice is optional, and dependent on individual preference or financial means. Try to select the finest tackle you can afford, manufactured by reliable firms that rely on your satisfaction for continued business success.

This same axiom pertains to line selection also, as the quality products may inspire your confidence, especially with a nice fish on one end. Better line has less stretch and higher knot strength than cheaper stuff, is less stiff, more supple, and runs consistently true to stated test strength. So-called "bargains" in line or tackle never seem to hold up very well, and may cost you more money in the long run.

Get your tackle and get out there and use it. Be observant—look for places to use your new tackle to its best advantage. Inshore locations worth prospecting are numerous: old docks, piers, and pilings build up barnacles and mussels that are eaten by tiny bait fish which, in turn, become forage for bigger fish; sod banks close to channels, bridge abutments, rocky points and lighthouses, are also good places to try. Apply some Yankee ingenuity; use your headbone for something other than a hat rack, ask questions, look, listen, learn. Shy away from deep water, strong currents, or any locations that will hamper efficient ultra-light tackle use. If you must use heavy sinkers to stem strong currents, or heavy lures to fish very strong rips, you defeat the very concept of ultra-light fishing.

Go have some fun—let some light into your life. As you gain confidence in your tackle, you will also gain additional confidence in your own ability as a fisherman. One night a fishing companion sneered at our tackle as he heaved chunks of mackerel far out into the inky black Long Island Sound. "How do you expect to catch fish with that match stick and spider web?" he laughed as he holstered his conventional rig in a rod holder. "You can't even cast it far enough in the first place," he laughed again. We laughed along with him, casting our jointed Rebel plug twenty feet away, swimming it back slowly alongside some pilings. When we left, we carried five fat school bass in the five-pound class while our friend was skunked. Naturally, we offered him one, but his pride prevented him from accepting, and he walked off muttering something about "damn match stick!"

Try it—let a match stick light your fire.



Sinker Bouncing *(Continued from page 20.)*

pectoral fin. This is the fin situated at the middle of each fish near the gill cover. Angle the knife toward the vent and slice through with one stroke. This will leave you the head, the intestines, and most of the rib cage in one piece.

Cut off the head and you will have gutted and decapitated the fish with but two quick passes of the knife. Once experience is gained, each fish should take about ten seconds to clean.

Dorsal and anal fins can be "run" by making a shallow cut on each side and then by making a slight cut near the aft end. A rag or pliers can be used to strip them free of the body.

To fillet flounder or fluke, lay fish on a board—top side up for fluke, bottom side for flounder. Don't scale unless you wish to leave skin on. Make a diagonal cut from the shoulder toward you, skirting the gut cavity. Next, make a long slice through the center of the fish's back to tail. Slice off one piece at a time, working the knife toward the outside fin line. Do the same on opposite side. This method produces four slices from each fish.

To get two larger pieces, make a diagonal cut as noted, then a half-inch in from the edge of the top fin, make a long continuous slice to the tail. Start at shoulder and remove the first fillet. Reverse fish, head toward you, and make initial cuts as before. To skin fillets, place on board skin side down and carefully make a cut to skin, a half-inch from tail end. Hold knife at an angle and pull skin against the blade with short, sideways motions. Skin will easily peel off.

For more detailed information and step-by-step photos on flounder filleting, check L.I.F. Issue #1, 1977. For fluke filleting, look up L.I.F. Issue #19, 1977.

FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

SQUID
★Part Two★

ARCHITEUTHIS! Sounds like the name for a toothache in a fang, doesn't it? Actually, it is the name of a group of giant squid. How many of you remember Walt Disney's movie "20, Leagues Under the Sea?" At one point in the movie, the sailors find themselves battling a monstrous-sized squid. Well, this is one fantasy that's at least partially true. The giant squid is a reality! Information about giant squid is very sketchy because these giant mollusks do **not** scamper around in our bays, chase bait up against the beaches, or romp merrily in the coastal ocean. These cephalopods are at home in the deep ocean. It is rare when one is seen.

PATCHY INFORMATION! What little information that we do have has come to us almost exclusively by accident. From time to time, one of these creatures will wash ashore along the northeastern states. We believe that these specimens became either ill or injured and instead of sinking to the ocean floor, floated to the surface where tides, currents, and winds pushed them towards shore. It is thus believed that a population of giant squid inhabits the deep parts of the North Atlantic. Most sightings have been of squid that were thirty, forty, and fifty feet long. Squid of similar size have also been reported off the west coast of South America and it is believed that there exists a population of giant squid in the Humbolt Current in the Pacific.

WHALER'S LEGEND? The sperm whale feeds on these large squid. The whales can dive down to depths in excess of one-half of a mile and they can hold their breath for more than thirty minutes. In the blackness of the deep ocean the whales and the squid do battle. There is little doubt that the sperm whale always wins. The whale is stronger and smarter. However, the squid do not give up without a fight. When whalers kill sperm whales they sometimes notice large sucker marks on the skin of the whale. There is a story of one sperm whale that was taken that showed unusually large sucker marks. The scientists were called in to measure the marks. Past measurements indicate that there is a relationship between the size of the squid and the size of the sucker marks. Thus, it is possible to estimate the size of any squid from the size of its sucker marks. In this particular case, the squid was estimated to have been about **three hundred feet!** Legend or reality? We do not know.

SPAWNING IS A SPECTACLE! Squid spawning is replete with lavish color changes and embraces. Squid have pigment and pigment-dispersing structures in the skin. If these structures are opened the pigment, in tones of purple, red, rust, brown, and black will rush towards the surface, creating a mosaic of rich tones. The squid pulse these colors in response to stimulation from their environment. When a squid is caught and examined alive it will appear to "blush." The fisherman can gently run a finger along the skin which will "ignite" the pigment-bearing structures leaving a trail of red, purple, and brown blotches. During spawning the squid pulse their colors and the male and female squid will grasp each others' tentacles. During the embrace, the male will use one of his arms to reach inside his mantle and grab a packet of sperm. He then transfers this packet to the female. The transferred sperm will fertilize the female's eggs.

SQUID ARE VERY PROLIFIC! Billions upon billions of eggs will be released on the spawning grounds. However, death is the rule rather than the exception. Many eggs will fail to hatch and these will be attacked by bacteria and fungi. Millions of eggs will be eaten, too. Many of the newly hatched squid will be eaten by fish. Thus, only a small percentage of the eggs that were deposited will grow to maturity.

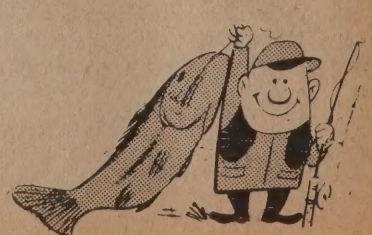
LOCAL VARIETIES! There are two squid that are common in our area. These are the long-finned squid **Loligo pealei**, and the short-finned squid **Illex illecebrosus**. Most fishermen in our area are only familiar with the long-finned squid since this is the species most often sold in bait stations and fish markets as local squid. It tends to be more purple than red, while the short-finned squid is a brilliant red. This past summer there were quite a few short-finned squid between the Midway Buoy and the Sub Buoy at Montauk. The short-finned squid is tougher, which explains why it is not sold in fish stores, and it is noticeably more vicious. If you happen to snag a long-finned squid it will behave docilely, while the short-finned specimens will grab onto your fingers and given the chance will give you a good bite. You can't beat local long-finned squid for bait. Most often, frozen squid comes from California (Monterey), and it is inferior. It is worth the trouble to make a trip to your local fish store in February and March to stock up on the local goodies! A tip: buy the **big** ones!

COME INSHORE IN THE SPRING. The long-finned squid move inshore during May and June. They can be found in Great South Bay, Long Island Sound, and Peconic Bay. A little later on they will show up at Montauk and at times, may move right into the surf. This is prime time for bass and blues along the south side. If you should ever see squid in the surf, get your rod! If you mention your observation to a local surf fisherman, you'll have to help him to put his eyes back into his head! Weakfish and fluke also like to chase the squid around and when we have a lot of squid in Peconic Bay, we have some of the most fantastic weakfishing.

SIZES. Most of these squid are very small. The average size will be between six and twelve inches. At times larger specimens, ranging up to twenty inches, can be found and these are the best to use as bait. You can catch squid in several ways, but one of the best ways is night fishing. If you suspend a light in the water where squid occur they will be attracted to the light. They will strike at a white small spoon or tin lure. The fisherman can then strike back and snag them in the tentacles.

AS BAIT. Squid are used to bait everything from sharks and billfish to fluke and sea robins. It is an excellent all-around bait, especially when it is local and fresh. Strips are excellent additions to any small lures that might be used for game fish, such as tins and bucktails. Fishermen seeking bigger game will rig the squid whole.

YOU EAT THEM! Have you ever eaten squid? Try them sometime—they're great. Cooks select the smaller individuals and they must be very fresh, and local. If the squid has any strong odor, don't buy it. Fresh is very important when you plan to eat it, as well as when you plan to use it as bait. Cut the tentacles into pieces and cut the body into rings. Be sure to clean out the inside and to take the skin off before you prepare to cut and clean the squid. The pieces can be marinated with olive oil, vinegar, onions, and spices to use as a cold antipasto, or they can be cooked in tomato sauce. One of the nicest ways to prepare them with tomato sauce is to make a casserole of squid, mussels, clams, and tomato sauce. When served with a side order of linguine, it is excellent. Do not cook the squid too long and it will not be rubbery. Consult a seafood cookbook and follow the directions to the letter.



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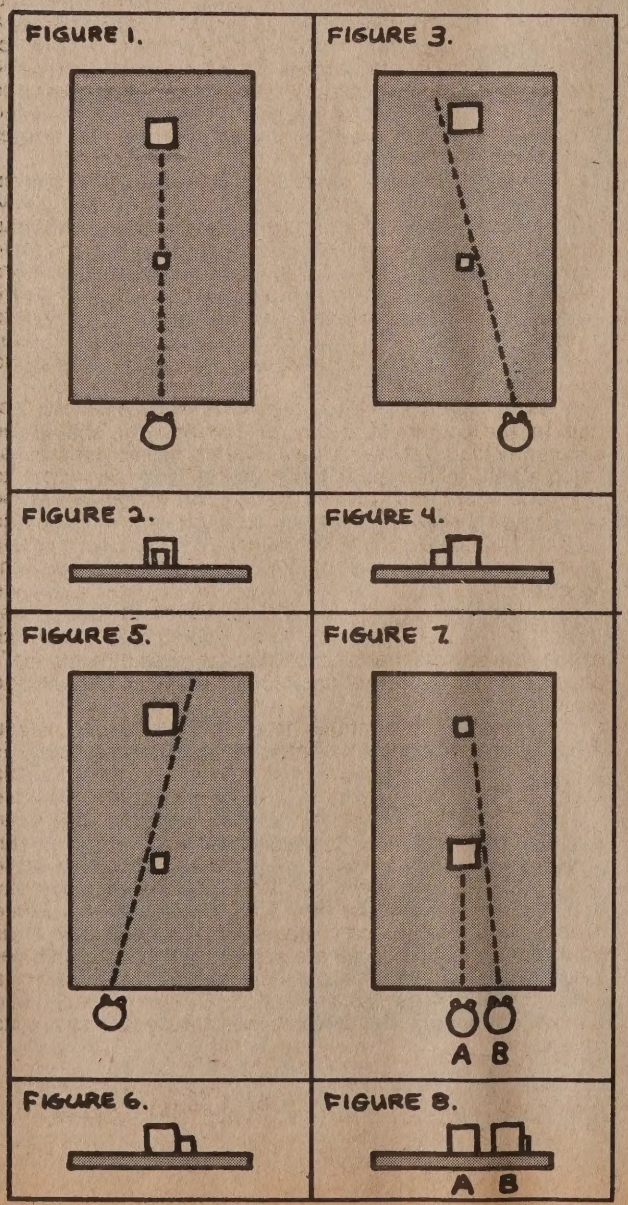
Where Are You?

Part One—SHORE RANGES

by Scott Simons

Knowing where you are on the water while fishing is one of the most important aspects of fishing, and is one of those many areas of expertise that separates the novice from the expert fisherman. The reason knowing where you are is so important is simple: if you don't know where you are, how can you return to the same spot? You can't. Many anglers wander around in their boats aimlessly, locating fish on occasion by sheer luck. When they do find fish they haven't really accomplished all that much because they don't know where they are fishing. Suppose they have come across a school of bluefish hanging out over the top of a wreck. If they knew where they were, they would be able to return to the wreck on subsequent trips. The more accomplished fisherman would note the location of the wreck so that he could return to it on another day.

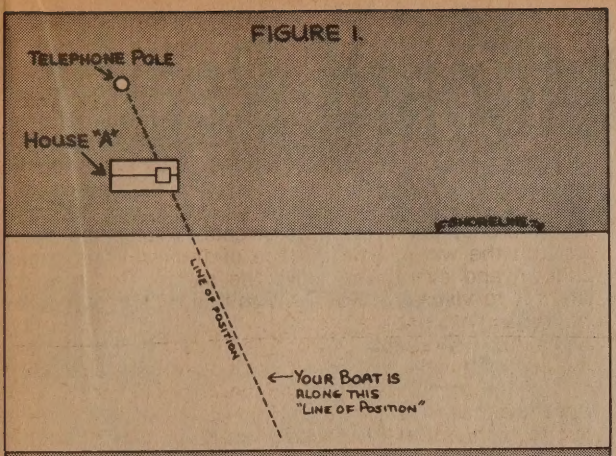
Knowing where you are on the water is naturally more difficult than when you are on land because you don't have any reference points such as streets, houses, buildings, etc., on the water. The surface of the water is usually uniform and everything looks the same. This makes it difficult to visually place the position of where you are fishing and also makes it difficult to explain your location to another fisherman. Unfortunately, when asked where you caught a mess of fish you can't answer as specifically as "on the corner of Broadway and Spruce Street." But there **are** means of knowing where you are on the water, and any angler worth his salt knows them. One of the best methods is with a Loran A or Loran C set, but they are relatively expensive for the small boat fisherman. There is also the sextant, which costs a little money but is extremely accurate for plotting your position on the water, which we will go into in Part Two of this article next week. However, there is a method that doesn't cost the fisherman a single penny to use—shore ranges. The ability to take a good "range" is something that virtually every good fisherman has—otherwise he wouldn't be a good fisherman, just another novice cruising around to nowhere.

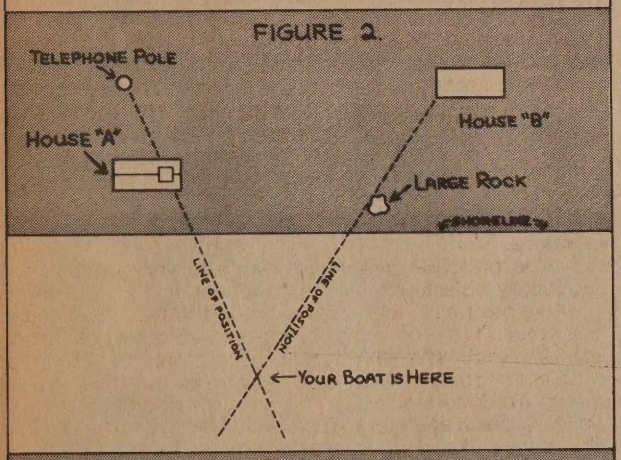


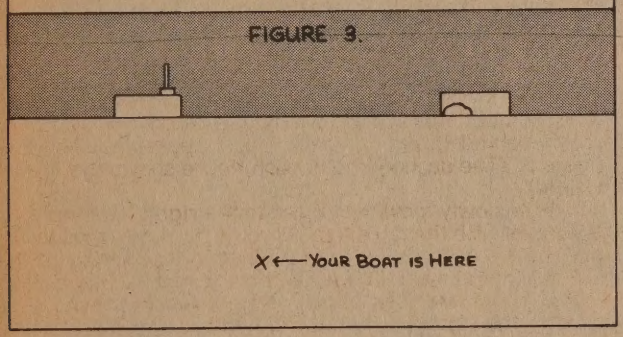
The principle of a shore range is very simple: two stationary objects on land will appear to be in different relative positions when viewed from different positions on the water. So by moving your boat, the relative positions of stationary objects will change. Therefore, by lining up stationary objects, you can mark your position on the water. To understand how this simple principle works, sit yourself down at a table. Take two objects, one larger than the other—like a salt shaker and a coffee cup. Place the smaller object in the center of the table and the large object at the far end of the table, as shown in Diagram A, figure 1. Then lower your head so that you bring the top of the table down to eye level, and move your head from left to right until the small object is centered on the larger object behind it and the two objects appear as shown in figure 2. (The dashed line in each figure shows the line of vision.)

Now slowly move your head to the right, keeping your eyes level with the table top. As you move your eyes to the right, the smaller object will appear to be moving to the left, changing its relative position to the larger object, although neither has actually moved. Keep moving your head to the right slowly until the smaller object is to the left, but just barely "kissing" the larger object, as shown in figures three and four. Now you have a different range in figure four than you did in figure two. Your head is the boat, and the objects on the table are stationary objects on the shore. This is the only position your head can be in to make the relative positions of the two objects appear as in figure four. If you were to continue to move your head to the right the smaller object would continue to move to the left, opening a space between the two objects so that they were no longer "kissing." If you moved your head to the left, the smaller object would start moving to the right and start moving in front of the larger object again. Move your head far enough to the left and eventually the smaller object will be kissing the opposite side of the larger object, as shown in figures five and six. Remember that throughout all this only the position of your head has moved—the objects themselves have remained stationary, and only their **relative** positions have changed visually.

Now reverse the positions of the two objects on the table as shown in figure seven: the smaller object at the end of the table and the large object in the center. In this case you won't be making your range by lining up two objects, but rather by hiding or uncovering the smaller object from the larger object. Again, with the table at eye level, move your head to the center of the table so that the smaller object disappears behind the larger one. In figure seven you can see the position of head "A" and how the







line of vision is stopped by the larger object, preventing you from seeing the smaller object behind it. So all you see is the larger object, like "A" in figure eight. Now slowly move your head to the right, like "B" in figure seven, and watch for the smaller object to appear on the right side of the larger object as shown by "B" in figure eight. The larger object is no longer in your line of vision, allowing you to see the smaller object, so you have another range. This "uncovering" method of taking a shore range is very good, but is usually not as accurate as lining up two objects because, depending on the size of the stationary objects and your distance from them, the far object may be hidden for too long.

Now let's put your head and eyes on a boat out on the water and start looking at some stationary objects on the shore. The most important thing to do is pick objects that are permanent and stationary. Don't use objects like beach buggies, cars, etc., which can be expected to move, because when they do your range will become worthless. Ideal objects for taking shore ranges are water towers, telephone poles, trees, large rocks, smokestacks, houses, chimneys, hills, low or high points on bluffs, etc. It is important that the objects chosen for taking a range are at varied depths from the viewer's eyes. Choosing objects that are the same distance from you is worthless because as you change your position on the water, the relative positions of the objects will remain almost the same. But when two objects are at different depths, their relative positions will change much quicker with movement. So the accuracy of your shore ranges will therefore increase in direct proportion with the distance between the objects used.

Now let's use what we have learned thus far to locate our position on the water. Let's suppose we are bottom fishing and come across a wreck and start bailing fish. Naturally, this is definitely a bottom formation that we would like to relocate again in the future, so we are going to take ranges on it. Look at Diagram B, figure one, which is an aerial view of the water and shore where we are fishing. For our first range, we choose a telephone pole and a house with a chimney—excellent objects because the telephone pole is lined up with the chimney. This is our first range, which gives us one line of position, as shown by the dotted line in figure one. But this range only gives us the **angle** from the objects that the wreck is located. By moving inshore and offshore with the boat while keeping the range lined up, we will eventually pass over the wreck along this line and may be able to locate it with a good depth recorder. But a far more accurate method of finding the wreck again is to take a **second** range, which will tell us the **distance** the wreckage is from the shore. For our second range we are going to use a large rock that is in front of a second house that is "kissing" the left side of it. As you can see in figure two, this second range gives us a second line of position that bisects the line of position of the first range we took. A double range always locates the desired object, in this case a wreck, at the point where the two lines of position bisect each other. This is called "triangulation." Figure three shows how the two ranges will appear from the water.

Now that you have made your ranges for the location of the wreck, the next step is to write them down! Draw yourself a little sketch or two and note the date, what you caught, what the ranges are marking, etc., and add it to your log book. If the area has produced fish once, it more than likely will again. By keeping such a log with shore ranges of productive areas in the past, you won't have to spend a lot of time fishing "blind." Just maneuver your boat into the position that lines up your shore ranges and you'll be in business.

But shore ranges also have their short term use too, and in the course of a day of fishing you should be constantly taking shore ranges. Every time you get a hit or catch a fish, take a quick range so that you can return to the same spot. This calls for some quick range taking, so you should always try to pick out objects on the shore line you are going to use to take ranges with in advance. As you are cruising around with the boat in search of fish, keep an eye on the shore line for objects that are constantly changing their relative positions with other objects. Otherwise, you may find yourself taking a quick range with objects that are not at a varied depth and don't change their relative positions, making the range worthless.

Naturally, shore ranges have their limitations. If you are offshore and are out of sight of land, there obviously is going to be problems. Loran is the only answer in this case. But what if you are offshore and can see the shore line, but the objects are too small to use for taking an accurate range? Get a few miles offshore and you can forget about using a telephone pole for a range because you won't be able to see it. What if it is a hazy or foggy day and you can't see the objects of your range clearly? More problems. So as we can see, shore ranges have their limitations. Next week we are going to talk about another method of locating your position on the water using a sextant—a navigation instrument that hasn't been improved upon in the several hundred years since its invention.

Getting Your Outboard Ready

by Rich Fezschak

If your engine has been winterized properly, the first step of readying it in the spring, will be to blow out the extra winterizing oil. (See photo One.) To accomplish this, all you need do is remove all spark plugs and turn the engine over with the key for a few seconds. Never turn the engine by hand. A turn in the wrong direction may cause impeller damage in the water pump. Install all old spark plugs and start the engine. If the engine has trouble starting, **never** use ether or any other quick-starting mixture. These solvents will wash the coating of oil off the cylinder walls, and scuffing or scoring may occur. I prefer to use a large plastic barrel in which to run the engine, rather than the type of water injection-hose connection systems made by Tempo and others. With this method I can check the forward, neutral and reverse of my engine. The idle can also be adjusted while the engine is in foward gear. It is usually necessary to run the engine for several minutes until the smoke from the excess oil dissipates. After the engine is running clean and stops smoking, all that is necessary is to replace the old oil-fouled plugs with new ones.

Probably nothing is more frustrating at the launching ramp than a dead battery or an engine that refuses to start. To eliminate this problem, I fill my batteries with distilled water and charge them fully before I even make my first flounder trip of the year. (See photo Two.) When the trickle charge rate on the battery drops to around 3 amps, the battery is usually fully charged. The terminals from the battery to the engine should be cleaned at least once a year so that the engine turns over very quickly during the starting procedure. While on the subject of cleaning electrical connections, the connection to the recorder, CB or VHF should also be cleaned. (See photo Three.) Manufacturers specify, however, that the recorder should never be tested with the transducer out of water. Running light and trailer lights should also have their contacts cleaned. After cleaning, Vaseline Petroleum Jelly works well at keeping corrosion from recurring on the contacts of these lights and does not interfere with good electrical contact being made.

Greasing of the wheel bearings on the trailer can be done before the rig is even moved from home. (See photo Four.) The engine also has several grease points that should be taken care of as soon as possible in anticipation of the spring season. It is usually best to take the grease gun with you on the first trip. The trailer rollers can be greased easily while the boat is off the trailer. (See photo Five.) A few seconds spent in checking out, aligning and greasing the rollers could save a lot of pushing, shoving and grunting later in the season. Any extra grease can be removed from the boat or trailer with a degreasing product such as Lestoil used full strength.

Although many of us fish our boats exceptionally hard, we would like to have as neat and trim a craft as possible. It is usually necessary to re-tighten some of the screws in the various hardware and plexiglass on the hull. A good idea that keeps screws in handrails and windshields tight, is to dip them in a small amount of epoxy or plyobond before tightening. A good wax job on a Fiberglas hull makes cleaning after a trip much easier.

Wood on a boat usually represents a major expenditure of time and money to keep it looking bright and well-cared for. (See photo Six.) One of the nicest looking wood consoles I have seen is on the seventeen-foot Whaler belonging to Vic Galgano, President of Spider Tackle. (See photo Seven.) Most varnish or urethane finishes have one small problem. Should the finish be chipped or worn away, the exposed wood will darken and

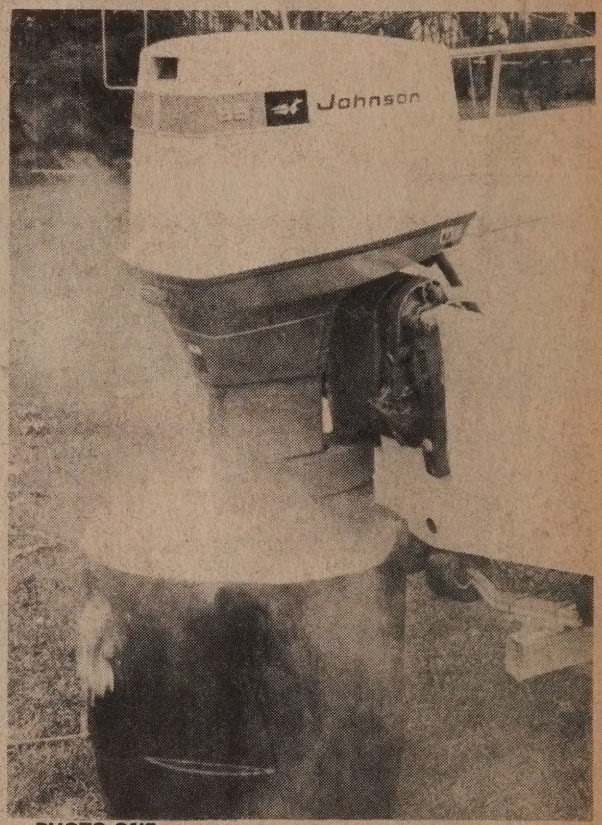
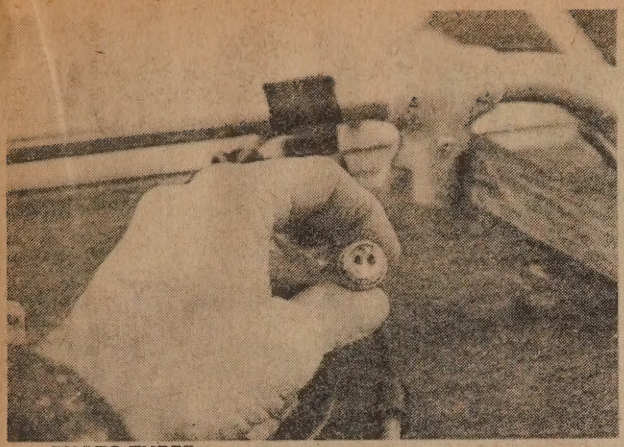


PHOTO ONE.

PHOTO TWO.



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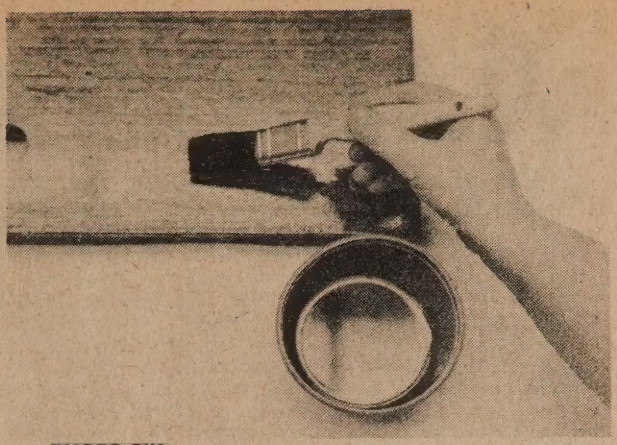

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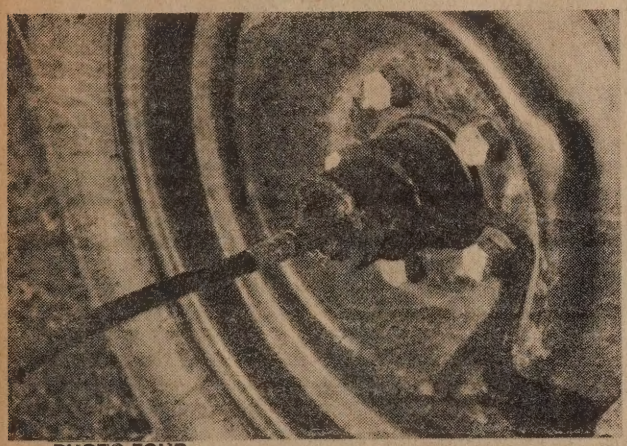

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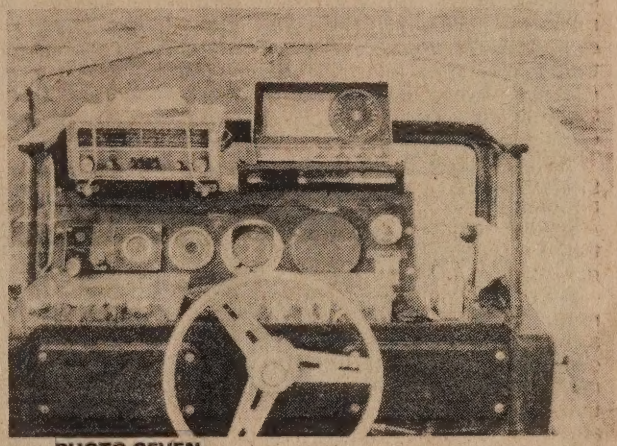

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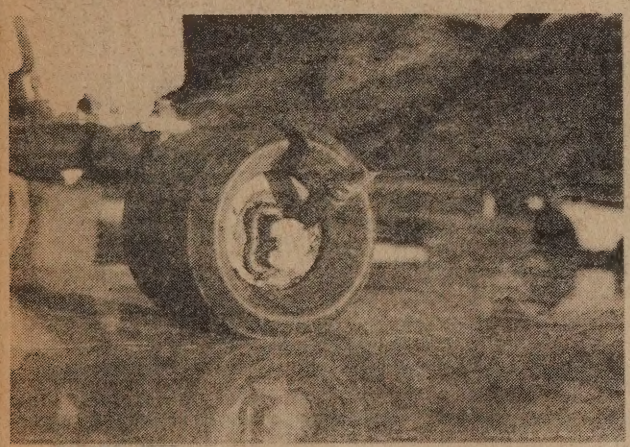

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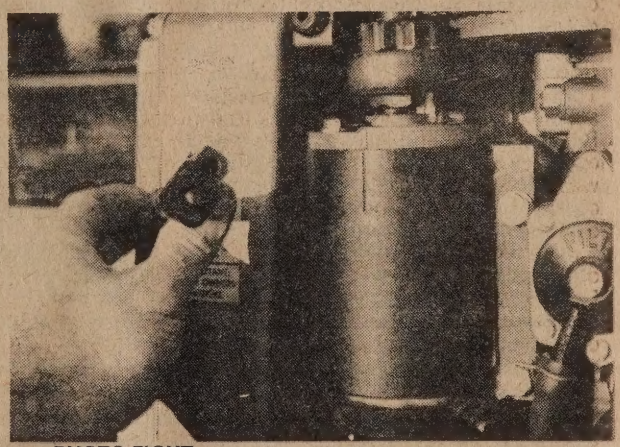


PHOTO EIGHT.

become unsightly. Vic's formula for solving this problem on mahogany, teak or any other wood, is to use an oil mixture on the freshly sanded wood. His special formula is one-third boiled linseed oil and two-thirds Woodlife. The mixture should be applied at least twice, one or two weeks apart, and then yearly, or as needed. Do **not** use raw linseed oil. This will make the wood surface sticky and slow drying. Many old-timers also recognized the advantage of linseed oil. The usual wood preserving mixture for interior use is the same, except for substituting pure gum spirit turpentine for the Woodlife. Once the wood is preserved by several applications of this treatment, it will not discolor when exposed to salt water or the elements and you will have the look of a fine, hand-rubbed, oiled finish with a minimum of care.

One problem with center console fishing boats is the built-in gas tank and how to maintain it throughout the year. One product which is recommended by several engine manufacturers is the OMC 2 + 4 conditioner. This product will stabilize gasoline throughout the long winter months and also remove any condensed water that might be in the tank. A treatment once or twice a year will go a long way toward keeping the gas tank in good condition. It is a good idea also to check both filter and O-ring connector on the engine before the first trip of the year. (See photo Eight.) I like to carry my outboard motor oil on the boat and refill the gas tank completely after each fishing trip. This assures a consistent gas/oil mixture and avoids any excessive condensation in the tank.

The only additional tip I can offer is to make up a check list of things to be done and equipment that should be taken on each trip.

RADIOS FOR FISHERMEN!

by Al Nunes-Vais

The radio is one of the most significant pieces of electronic gear that members of the angling fraternity who fish from boats can carry. Properly used, it can't help but increase the fish catch, and it provides a measure of safety, should trouble occur offshore.

1977 is now behind us, but in that year a number of changes took place in the communication field which may have an impact on the radio gear you may like to carry aboard. First, the old AM high frequency marine sets, operating on what was commonly known as the "Marine Band" became obsolete—and their use taboo. For the most part, these were replaced by the new VHF-FM system, supplemented by the Marine Single Side Band (SSB).

Likewise, changes have taken place in the Citizen's band systems, with an increase from twenty-three to forty channels, as well as the advent of side band sets that can further increase the number of channels available. Perhaps the most important development related to CB which can influence marine anglers is the decision by the Coast Guard to monitor CB radio.

What are all of these systems, what can they do for you aboard your boat, and what are the relative advantages and disadvantages of each? Furthermore, some may ask: why carry a radio aboard in the first place?

A radio can do quite a number of things for you, and the following are just a few examples:

It could provide for communication between a group of two to three friends who fan out looking for fish. When one hits pay dirt, he calls the others in for the fun.

It can give you a feel for what is going on around you by listening to the chatter between other private and commercial boats. Although you may not know where it is happening, you can readily hear if fish are in fact being caught—or conversely, if it is a dead day, when perhaps you thought that you were alone in striking out.

You could call home and tell your wife she has no need to go to the supermarket, as you are bringing home a nice twenty-pound striper for supper; or a busy executive could keep in touch with the office, or for that matter, with customers any place in the country.

Above and beyond the above reasons, having a radio aboard can provide you with a measure of increased safety. It provides a link with the outside world and can bring you help when you find yourself in trouble.

Thus, depending upon your boating and fishing habits, having a radio aboard can range from nice-to-have, to a useful tool, to a potential lifesaving link. But different radio systems have different capabilities, and if you are to purchase one, you must decide what is best for you.

When the old high frequency AM marine band sets became obsolete on January 1, 1977, the FCC's solution t the problem was to come up with new communication system tha utilizes two pieces of gear: on (VHF-FM) for inshore use, and on (SSB) for far offshore use. While th first situation is of importance to th majority of **Fisherman** readers, ther are some who range to the Canyon and distant wrecks, who will hav requirements for the second system

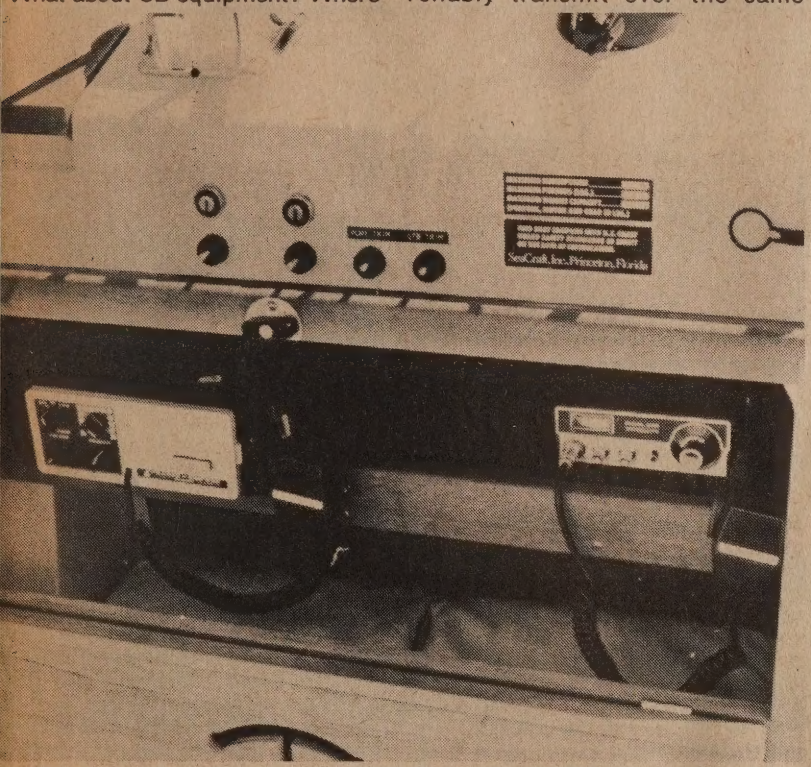
VHF-FM is really the new standar in marine communications and ha started to find its way aboard man fishing and pleasure craft. It is a lin of sight system, thus transmissio range is limited, but can be increase by adding height to the antenn systems. For that reason, you will fin that all Coast Guard land station have theirs on high towers t maximize range. These radios ar relatively static and noise free—lik your FM home radio—compared t the AM system and this is furthe enhanced by the 25 watt powe limit/line of sight combination, whic causes distant stations to drop ou Boat-to-boat range may be fro fifteen to thirty miles, and commun cations with the USCG land station could exceed that under some co ditions. VHF-FM has fifty-five dis creet channels available for a variet of purposes which range from Coas Guard monitor on 16 (which corre sponds to the old 2181 KHz) t boat-to-boat channels, to a dire link-up with the telephone system vi the marine operator. Some fishin

ubs, for instance, pick a little used
iannel, and members use this to call
eir friends in on a bonanza, without
lling the whole world.

The relatively short range of the
HF-FM radios introduce the need
r the SSB systems for craft that find
eir way far offshore and sets of this
pe are found aboard many party
oats and the canyon runners. They
ite up to 150 watts in power and are
apable of 1,000 mile-plus trans-
ission. Some of you may say:
Obviously, we will just get an SSB
ystem''—but, unfortunately it is not
iat simple. FCC regulations do not
ermit transmissions from SSB sets
nless you are twenty miles off the
each, and they will not license you to
arry such a set unless you already
ave a VHF-FM aboard!

What about CB equipment? Where does it fit in? Well, many marine anglers have put CB aboard in recent years and have found it a most useful tool. Impetus was added to CB during the conversion of the marine band to VHF-FM as the early VHF-FM sets were extremely expensive, and CB could be acquired at one-fourth the cost. Many of these anglers will continue with CB, and others will go with dual CB/VHF-FM set-ups. Furthermore, with the popularity of CBs in automobiles these days, many are taking the auto set and putting it in the boat when going to sea: no question that this provides for versatility for a minimum investment.

CB, like VHF-FM, is also a line-of-sight system, but because of crowded channels and background noise it cannot be counted on to reliably transmit over the same distances as the marine system. One big recent plus for CB was the decision of the USCG to monitor channel 9, but chances are that in a full-scale emergency your probability of getting through would be better with a VHF-FM system. Another disadvantage of CB, perhaps not important to you, is the inability to link up with the telephone system. Nevertheless, CB can do a good deal for you, in terms of chit-chat with angling buddies, and generally finding out what is going on about you. The influencing factor for many will be the price tag, which is most attractive in the CB area.



This author has opted for both VHF-FM (left) and CB (right) aboard.

VHF-FM package sets, including antenna, are seen advertised these days starting at about $300—and incidentally, the SSB radios start for the most part pricing out at $1000 and go up from there. While CB has gotten a bit more sophisticated, the best buy has to be the old 23 channel set, which cannot be sold as ''new'' any more after January 1, 1978. They are a glut on the market, and good sets can be purchased at $50 to $80, and if you decide to go the CB route, those sets are more than adequate. Alternatively, you can get involved in a 40 channel set for $120 to $150, or get involved with SSB CB sets, which further increase your channels at a price tag of $250. However, since not many of these newer sets are aboard boats, you may not find anyone to talk to on those extra channels. Incidentally, the CB prices quoted do not include a marine antenna, priced out between $30 to $40, which you will need aboard for reliable communications.

So, which set is for you? Well, only you can decide based upon your needs and pocketbook. VHF-FM is well on its way to becoming the marine communication system of the future. CB will do a good deal for you at some trade-offs in safety and communication clarity, but at a far smaller price tag and that covers the inshore situation. For those who make the distant runs to the Gulf Stream and Canyons, there is really not much choice as they need the VHF-FM/SSB 2 set combination.

SUMMARY OF FACTS RELATED TO RADIOS FOR ANGLERS

	VHF-FM	MARINE SSB	CB
Frequency range [MHz]	156-158	2-23	26.96-27.25
Unit power ranges [watts]	1-25	100-150	.1-5
Signal propagation	line of sight	sky wave	line of sight
Typical range	15-40	1000 +	5-15
USCG monitor	yes	yes	yes
Hook-up with telephone	yes	yes	no
Marine weather info	yes	yes	no
Typical price	$300 +	$1000 +	$50-$250

SURF FISHING

Putting Line on a Spinning Reel

with Harry Bonner

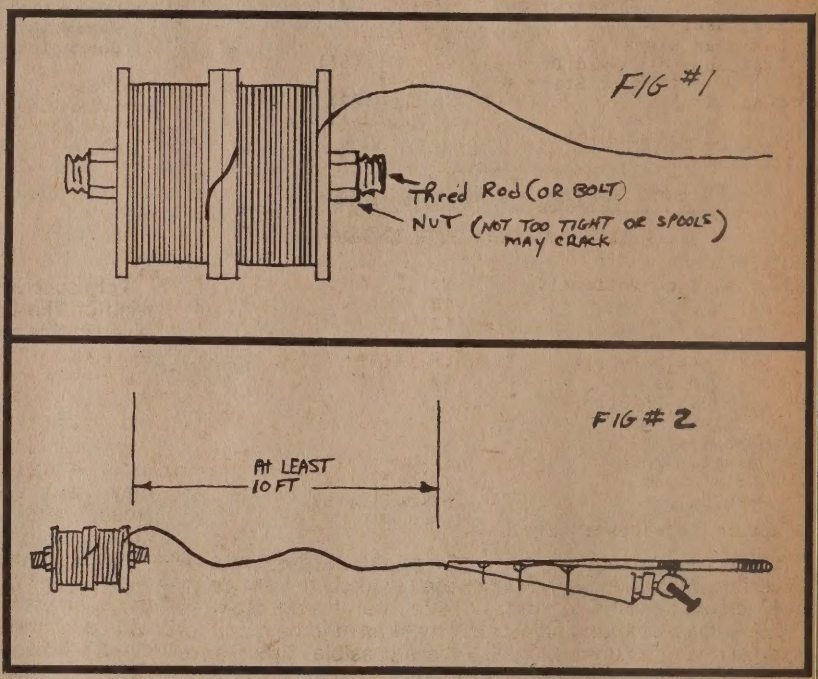
First of all try to visualize what happens when a line is put on a spinning reel.

Let's assume that you've just cast out into the surf, and let's also assume that the line is perfectly free of any line twist (in reality this is not so). Now, as you reel in the line, for every turn of the handle, the line twists three to four times, depending on the reel you are using.

Now that the line is all on the spool, it is twisted considerably. However, when you cast out again, the line twists in the opposite direction and thus the orginal twist that was made bringing in the line is cancelled out.

Now you can see that if the line can be put on the reel the very first time relatively free of twists, you will have no problems. From now on, the line twists as you cast and untwists as you reel in, and so on.

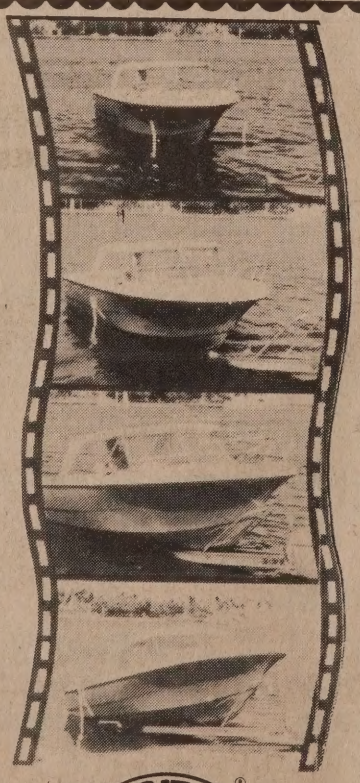
For the many distance casting tournaments I've participated in, many hours have been spent on subjects such as line twist, knots, rod building, lines, etc. I have tried many methods of putting a line on a reel and here is the best, and I might add the easiest way to do it.



To begin with, get a bolt and nut or a piece of threaded rod and put through the two or more spools, as in drawing No. 1 (note how the line goes from one spool to the other). Have someone hold the two spools and stand about ten feet away from rod tip. The line should peel off the end of the spool, as in drawing No. 2. As you reel in the line, you can see it starting to twist between the rod tip and the two spools. When the line begins to look like a long spring that has been stretched, stop reeling and tell the person holding the spools to reverse them so the line will peel off the other end. As you reel in, you can see the line untwist until it is straight and then will start to twist in the other direction. When it begins to look like a long, stretched out spring again, reverse the two spools again and so on, until all the line is on the reel. Actually, the line on the reel is twisted, but it is twisted in two directions and the first time you cast all the twists cancel out.

Incidentally, when reeling in the line, squeeze it slightly with two fingers so it goes on the reel snug.

This method works. You can put new line on your reel using this method and have no fear of twisted lines, even on the very first cast.



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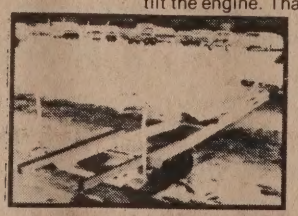

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7 Ft. Ultralight *(Spinning)*

Tiptop	5½	1
Guides (Spinning)	30	1
	20	1
	17	1
	12	1
	10	1
Grips-Neoprene-Foregrip	1/2x5"	1
Reargrips	3/8x5"	2
Reel Seat	3/4"	
Lamiglas Blank	FL-97-7F	
Shakespeare-Howald Process	12-0336 (6')	1
Ugly Stick	12-0630	
Fenwick	SP 844 (#7)	
	SP 846 (#6)	

Approximate Cost: $25

7 Ft. Bottom Fishing Rod (Cod—*Conventional)*

Tiptop	16	1
Guides (conventional)	16	1
	14	2
	12	1
Grips-		
Neoprene Foregrip	11/16x6"	1
Rear Grips	5/8x6"	2
Reel Seat-friction	15/16	1
Lamiglas Shaft	BT-85-75	1
Shakespeare-		
Howald Process	12-000 (#22)	
Ugly Stick	12-0437 (#8)	
Fenwick	BT-845 (#16)	

Approximate Cost: $21-26

other hand, a number 17 or 24 might be preferred by certain folks and these changes are not likely to infringe on functionality in most cases. Note that tiptop sizes fit Lamiglas blank, and adjustments will have to be made for other manufacturers blanks. Where possible, tiptop sizes appear next to manufacturers blank ( ).

9 Ft. Medium Action Saltwater Surf Stick *(Spinning)*

Tiptop	7	1
Guides (Spinning)	60	1
	40	1
	24	1
	14	2
Grips-Neoprene		
Foregrip	13/26x5"	1
Reargrips	3/4x5"	1
	11/16x5"	1
Reel Seat	15/16"	1
Lamiglas Shaft	MB-108-3M	
Shakespeare-Howald Process	12-0459 (#8)	1
Ugly Stick	12-0470 (#10)	
Fenwick	LB-1086 (#8)	

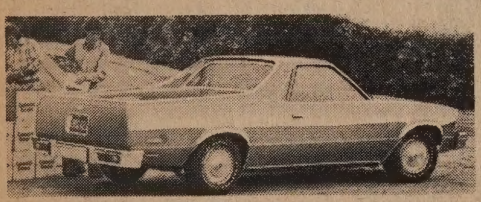
Approximate Cost: $30

In conclusion, I would like to say that it is the sincere wish of **The Long Island Fisherman** that the information given in this seven part series on rod building will help you to make a rod of your own. Furthermore, in reading about and thinking about the steps and methods of rod building you may develop a better understanding of the problems that must be addressed and then overcome by tackle manufacturers and local tackle shop craftsmen when they produce rods for us. Thus, the price of the finished product may seem high superficially, but has a way of growing smaller and smaller the deeper a fisherman becomes immersed in the rod building process.

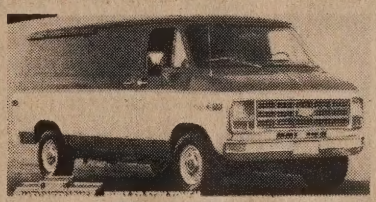
We are sure that if you attempt to make a rod, you will produce a finished product that will provide you many enjoyable fishing hours, and will be a tackle item that you will have great pride in for many years. So, why not try it—you'll like it. Good luck!

IF YOUR TOUGH TRUCK FLEET CONSISTS OF

WORK/PLAY TRUCKS or DOLLARS & SENSE TRANSPORT or SERIOUS BUSINESS



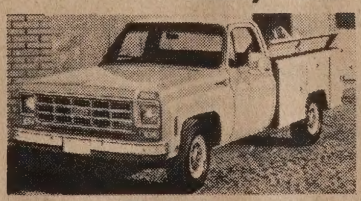
El Camino



Chevy Vans

Mediums

4-Wheel Drive



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ANCHORING

by Yul Holdbottom

Have you ever been out fishing in a twenty-six foot skiff or Sportfisherman alone, and wanted to anchor over a certain range or fix? Have you ever anchored in a fleet of boats and were embarrassed and annoyed by your anchor dragging instead of holding fast? Have you "hung" an anchor and had to cut free? Have you ever weighed anchor in over 100 feet of water? If any one of these things have happened to you, you have probably said a few choice words about both your boat and your anchor.

Anchoring properly and retrieving an anchor takes practice, and on larger craft may seem like a good deal of work. This need not be so if you understand a few things about anchors and how they work. You may find that you can simplify your anchoring tasks greatly.

Anchors come in various assorted shapes, sizes, and types. The standard kedge or stock anchor has been used for years and looks like the type of anchor you might see tattooed on a sailor's arm. This anchor gets its name from a bar or stock which is connected to the shank of the anchor at right angles to the flukes, or holding surfaces. The stock's function is for ease in "breaking" or retrieving the anchor from both rough and muddy bottoms.

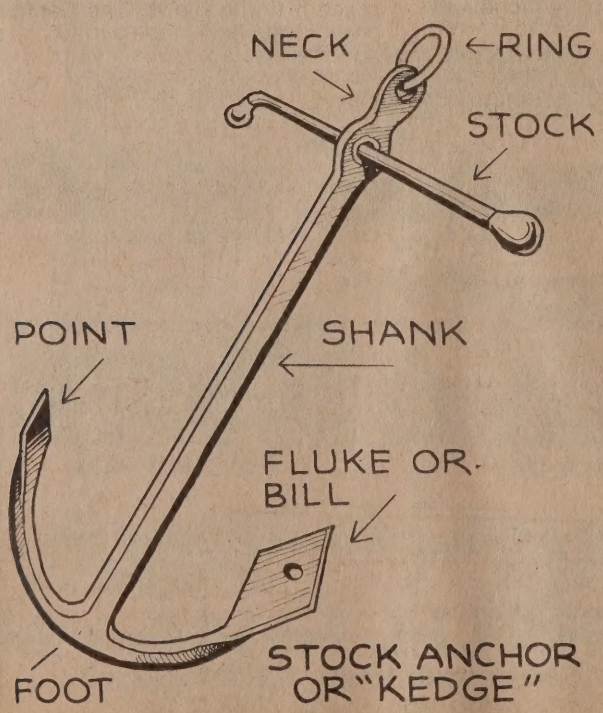
The anchor used by most yachtsmen today, however, is a patented anchor called a Danforth. This anchor has a very high holding power to weight ratio. It can also be used on almost any type of bottom, while other anchors may be restricted to usage in certain areas. Most boats sold today come equipped with Danforth-type anchors.

To be effective, however, the anchor must be of the proper weight and size for the type of vessel on which it is to be used. These anchors are measured and categorized by weight. Any good ships' chandler or yachting supply store should be able to recommend an anchor for your boat, or this information can be otained from Chapman's.

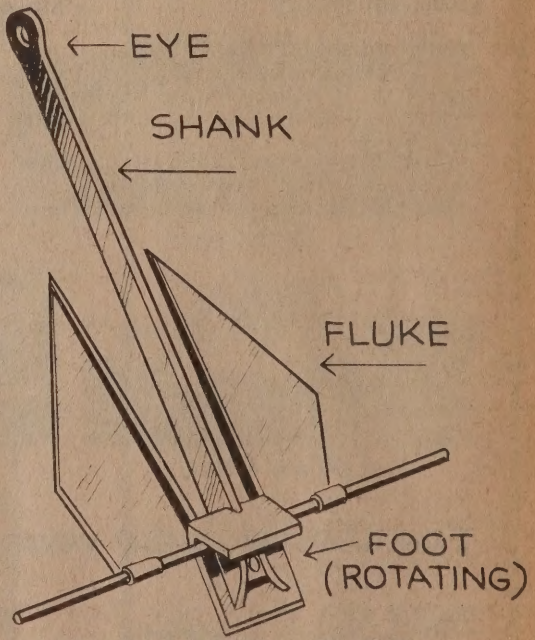
The S.A.V. anchor, or folding Norwegian type of anchor, is excellent for small car-top boats as it folds down to the shape of a metal bar when not in use and stores very well. The one drawback is that it will not hold extremely well in hard sand bottom.

All anchors, to hold in the bottom properly, must be paid out on enough line. Just dropping the anchor over, paying out some line, and snubbing may not do the job. The shank of the anchor when the anchor grabs into the bottom is at an angle from the bottom following the line to the boat. The more line—or scope as it is called—that you let out from the boat, the smaller the angle will be of the anchor shank from the bottom. If line goes down to the anchor at a large angle "short line," or scope, the action of wind, waves and tide will have a tendency to pull the anchor up from the bottom. If the anchor is down on a small angle or a long line or scope, the tendency will be for the flukes of the anchor to dig in deeper into the bottom.

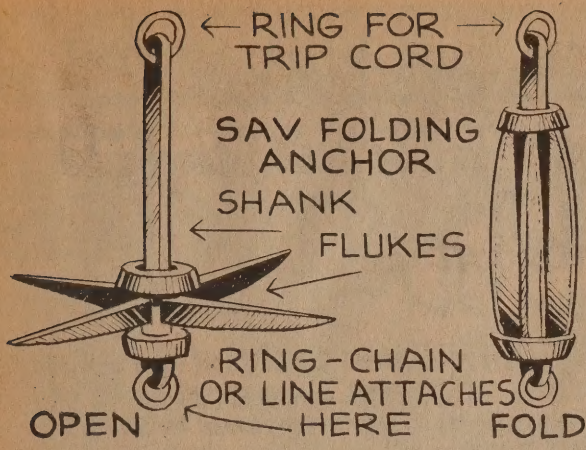
A general rule of thumb that may be used for anchoring is that your line or scope should be seven times the height of your bow from the water

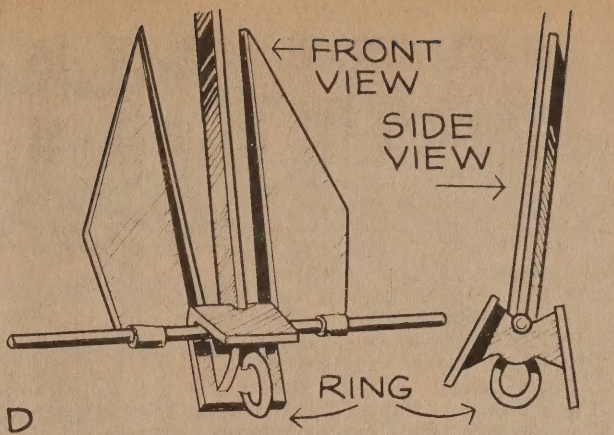


STOCK ANCHOR OR "KEDGE"

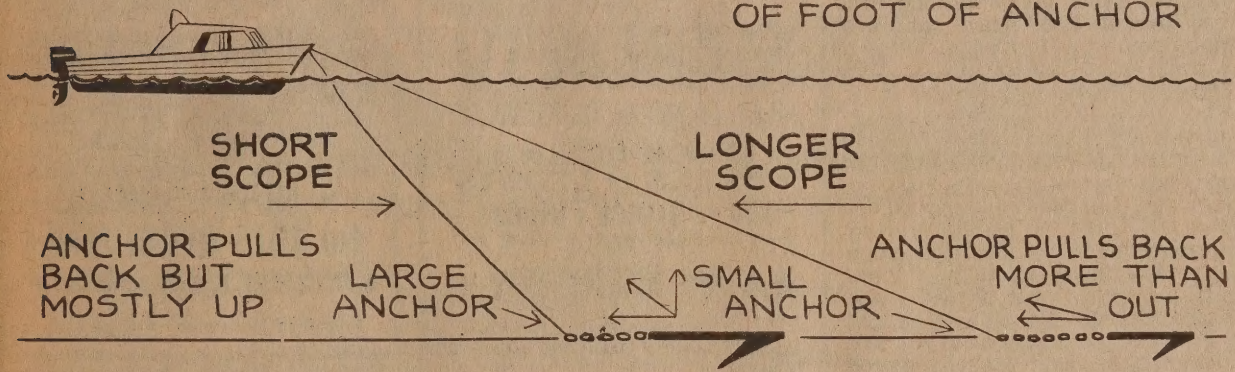


DANFORTH TYPE ANCHOR





DANFORTH ANCHOR WITH RING WELDED ON BASE OF FOOT OF ANCHOR



plus the water's depth. This 7:1 ratio may be decreased somewhat if a length of chain is added between the anchor and line, as the added weight will help decrease the angle from the bottom. Adding chain will also protect your line from chafing on rocks and/or rough bottom.

When anchoring in known rocky areas, a trip cord should be used on your anchor. This is done by attaching your anchor to its chain "backwards," or at the bottom or "foot" of the anchor. On the Danforth type of anchor, a ring can be welded to the bottom of the shank in such a way that the flukes will still turn. The chain is attached to this ring and is then tied to the eye at the top of the anchor shank with a cord that will break if heavy strain is placed upon it. This makes it possible to break the cord if the anchor is fouled and to pull the anchor out backward. Placing a trip cord on a Danforth can be a bit cumbersome, but it may be a lot easier than losing or cutting loose anchors.

If any anchor is fouled, the best method for retrieving it is to pull up to the anchor, then ease off enough line to allow your boat to make a small circle around the spot where you are hung. While keeping some strain upon the line, run small circles around the spot, being careful so as not to foul the anchor line around the rudder or prop of your boat. This should break the anchor free and almost always works when a trip cord is used.

Anchoring in deep water, or when alone in a larger boat can pose a real problem—especially if your boat has a cabin. There is a way, however, to power your boat up to an anchor when alone to retrieve it. When at anchor, your boat usually rides "bow on" into the tide or wind—whichever is stronger. You can start the engines and run the boat at slow speed at approximately 45° from the anchor's resting place, keeping some strain on the anchor lines as you start. Then, as you move forward toward the spot where the anchor lies, allow some belly in the line. Using a hook or a gaff, pluck the "bellied" line from the water. Retrieve the line until you near the point where the anchor lies. Tie the line to one of your stern cleats or the Samson post when the line is entering the water at an angle abeam to you and continue on the same course, allowing your anchor to "flop over," pulling itself out of the bottom. When the anchor "breaks" (pulls free), tow it and increase the boat speed if traffic allows. The Danforth anchor will plane to the surface when towed and you can then stop the boat and easily retrieve the anchor across the surface of the water. This method of towing an anchor works very well in deep water.

These steps, when practiced, will make your anchoring job much easier and will also give you an aura of professionalism that will impress both your guests and your fellow fishermen.

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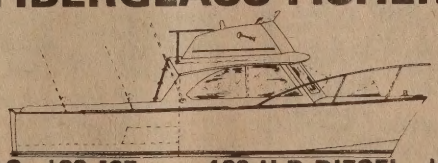

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fishing Fleet** said that the codfishing on Saturday and Sunday could only be rated as fair off of Block Island in the Shark's Ledge area. It looks like it may take a few more days for the fish to recuperate from the recent storms.

Captain Richard Rade of the **Marlin IV** also reported that the codfishing has not been too good on rod and reel lately, but the set-lines are really starting to produce. One day 1200 lbs. were taken and 10 of the cod were over 45 lbs.

CAPTREE

What boats sailed from Captree this past week experienced identical conditions and results as the Freeport fleet. The captains there do anticipate, however, a strong spring flounder run which should be upon us before we know it. Captain Neil of the **Lady Ann** did call to tell us that he and co-captain Walter Specht have bought a new boat which is 65' long and will be sailing as an open boat from Maple Avenue, Bay Shore on a daily basis at 7:45 a.m., from March to December. Neil says that they will be bay fishing only flounder, fluke and weaks. He says the boat will sail 70 anglers comfortably and has a large comfortable cabin. This all-wood boat features Two 671 diesels and carries all electronics, etc. Neil calls it his super-bay cruiser. The boat will start sailing in mid-March, so watch for their ad in The Long Island Fisherman. Neil and Walter are presently interviewing for First, Second and Third Mates. Those interested can call 516-546-5568.

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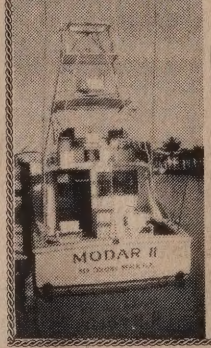

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On Right Side of Dock ★ COD DAILY 6 AM ★
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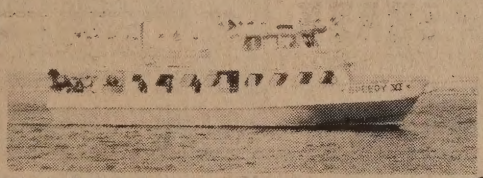

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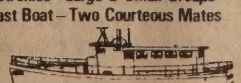

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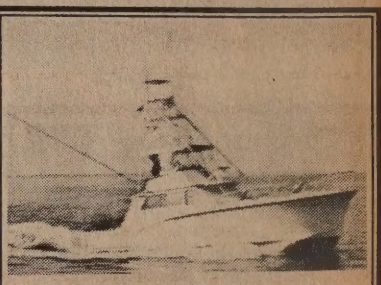

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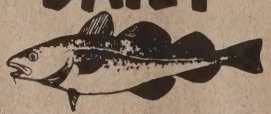

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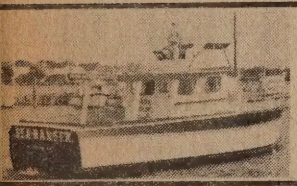

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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

Boats from this port reported that due to the snow and wind storms and melting ice, fishing was nil this past week. But that an improvement was expected as the salinity of the water rises along with the water temperature.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The Sheepshead Bay fleet this past week experienced the same poor conditions and results, as mentioned above, but they are also happy that March is right around the corner.

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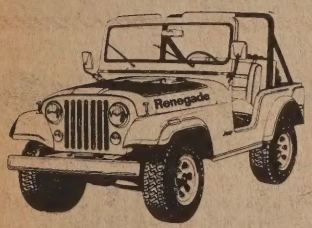

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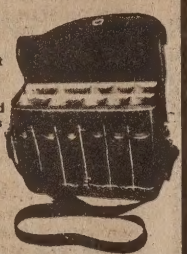

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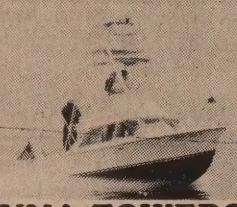

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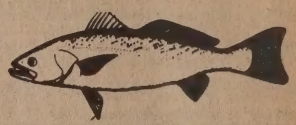

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(Continued from page 19.)

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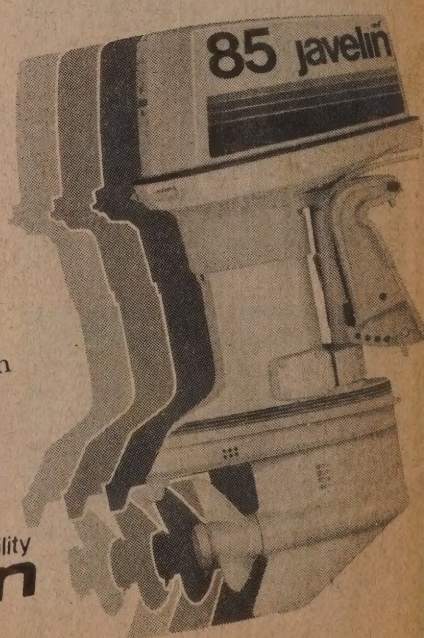

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